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SPECIAL NOTICE

Effective 1 June 1987 JPRS reports will have a new cover design and color, and some reports will have a different title and format. Some of the color changes may be implemented earlier if existing supplies of stock are depleted.

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The changes that are of interest to readers of this report are as follows:

The SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORT (SEA) will be titled EAST ASIA/SOUTHEAST ASIA (SEA).

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VIETNAM: TAP CHI CONG SAN (ATC) will be issued as a separate series under EAST ASIA.

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JPRS-SEA-87-081

17 JUNE 1987

EAST ASIA
SOUTHEAST ASIA

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THAI DEFENSE EXPERTS VISIT

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 18 May 87 p A7

[Text] Jakarta, May 18 (ANTARA)--Military experts from the Indonesian Institute of Defence (Lemhannas) held an hour-long discussion here Monday with their counterparts from Thailand on cooperation in the field of defence between the two countries.

The Indonesian side was led by Brigadier General Maini Dablan who acted as chairman of the discussion while the visiting 17 officers of the Thai National Defence College (NDC) was headed by Lieutenant General Surapol Thongpricha.

The Thai NDC group arrived in Jakarta from Australia Sunday and will leave Indonesia for Singapore on Thursday.

The group's stay in Indonesia will mostly be spent in Bandung where they will meet with the Commander of the Siliwangi (West Java) Regional Military Command and the West Java governor.

They will also inspect the extensive facilities of the IPIN, Indonesia's growing aircraft manufacturing industry, in the outskirts of the city.

For a rest, they will go to see the magnificent crater of the Tangkuban Prah volcanic mountain, only a few kilometers from Bandung.

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CSO: 4200/596

DUTCH COUNTERPURCHASES EXCEED TARGET

Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 15 May 87 p 5

[Text]

The Netherlands is the only country which had exceeded the obligation in the realization of counter trade contracts with Indonesia. The realisation of counter purchase contracts by 16 Dutch suppliers has up to the present time reached US\$ 46,022,152.87, around 1.21% bigger than their counter purchase obligation which is worth US\$ 45,474,471.59.

The trade performance of the Dutch suppliers which has surpassed the counter purchase obligation is thanks to a surplus of US\$ 7,708,358.40 they have made when they bought Indonesia's non-oil/gas commodities as the counter purchase obligation of their supply of goods to the Indonesian Government.

The fulfilment of the counter purchase obligation by the Dutch suppliers has reached about 2.66 percent of the entire counter purchase obligation of 149 suppliers from 24 countries, which is worth US\$ 1,711,399,713.49, and around 3.26 percent of the realisation of the counter purchase obligation of the 140 suppliers, which has stood at US\$ 1,413,280,443.98.

Indonesia's non-oil/gas export commodities bought by the 16 Dutch companies under the counter purchase contracts include : cement, rubber, DAP, fertilizer, tin, plywood, firecrest doors, jean denim, black tea powder, cream latex, nickel, ferronickel, cocoa liquid, coffee, renotine, white corn, garment, aluminium bar, cor doors and urea fertilizer.

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INDONESIA

FRG TO PROVIDE RUPIAH FUNDS FOR PROJECTS

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 20 May 87 p A9

[Text] Jakarta, May 20 (ANTARA)--West Germany will try to find a way out to help Indonesia in overcoming the scarcity of local funds to complete foreign-aided development projects.

The helping hand was promised by West German Ambassador to Indonesia Theodor Wallau in a special interview with ANTARA to mark the 38th anniversary of the proclamation of the basic law of the Federal Republic of Germany which falls on May 23.

Wallau, who speaks Indonesian was not prepared to mention the percentage of his government's aid that could be converted into the local currency (Rupiah), beyond saying: "Insya Allah (God willing), we would help find the way out."

He said thus far there had been no single German-aided project that had to be stopped, because the Indonesian government could not provide the counter-funds.

He explained that his government in extending aid did not specify which part that should be financed by local funds and which by the foreign aid.

On the disbursement of the German assistance, he said that there was no problem.

"We always give what is actually needed," he said, admitting smilingly that Bonn had made thorough studies before pledging aid to any project.

Owing to slumping oil revenues, Jakarta has been confronted with difficulties in collecting Rupiah funds.

To overcome this, the government has requested the donor countries grouping in the IGGI (Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia) to give a bigger portion of their aid that could be converted into Rupiah to finance local costs. Thus far Japan has met Jakarta's request.

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CSO: 4200/596

CONVERSION OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 20 May 87 p 6

[Text]

Fifty out of 221 Japanese investment companies operating in Indonesia under the PMA (foreign investment) scheme have changed their status to PMDN (domestic investment). The 50 companies operate in 12 out of the 27 provinces in Indonesia.

The process of the change of status took place from 1973 to 1986, according to the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).

Fourteen of the 50 companies which have converted their status from PMA to PMDN operate in the forestry field/timber processing industry, eight in the production of metalware and only two or one each in the automotive industry, housing field, agricultural field and various other business fields.

The number of Japanese investment companies changing their status was registered at 12 in the 1973-1980 period, 32 in the 1980-1985 period and six last year. Fifteen of the 50 companies operate in Jakarta, 11 in West Java, six in East Kalimantan, four each in East Java and S. Sulawesi, three in Maluku, two in Riau & one each in North Sumatra, South Sumatra and Central Java.

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USE OF OTHER SURVEYORS URGED

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 15 May 87 p A8

[Text] Jakarta, May 15 (ANTARA)--National importers appealed to the government Friday to consider the use of other surveyors beyond the Swiss SGS (Societe Generale de Surveillance).

Secretary of the Indonesian Importers Association (GINSI) KS Oetomo told ANTARA here Friday that so far SGS as the sole authorized surveyor company had always been considered the right one if it had problems with the importers.

He cited the higher tariff it fixed for an import duty as harming the interest of the importers.

Oetomo said, however, that the government decision to appoint the SGS as a sole authorized surveyor company had been successful in increasing the state revenue from import duties.

Commenting on the tariff of the import duties, Oetomo said SGS often fixed it at 200 to 300 or even once at 1,000 percent above the calculation of the importers.

GINSI had tried to discuss the problem with SGS and the government. SGS has always defended its decision, saying it has a legal basis to determine the rate of the tariff.

Therefore, the government needs to consider the use of other surveyor firms so that the importers would have other choices, he concluded.

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CSO: 4200/596

BUYUNG NASUTION FORBIDDEN TO PRACTICE LAW

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 16 May 87 p A7

[Text] Jakarta, May 15 (ANTARA)--Minister of Justice Ismail Saleh has issued a decree forbidding the hard-spoken advocate, Adnan Buyung Nasution to practice law at court in Indonesia for one year on charges of showing the "contempt of court."

The administrative penalty being effective as of May 11 was laid down on the justice minister's decree dated May 11.

The decree accused Buyung Nasution of speaking and showing an attitude that had despised a court body curing a trial of H.R. Darsono at the District Court of Central Jakarta early 1986.

Meanwhile Buyung Nasution who is now in the Netherlands to take his doctorate study will be informed of the penalty passed on to him by the Indonesian Ambassador to the Netherlands in Den Haag.

The decision came after Minister of Justice Ismail Saleh had received his letter defending himself against an administrative measure suggested by the Supreme Court chairman in end-January 1987 and the Indonesian Advocates Association in March 1987.

Buyung, who has 30 years of experience, was shouting words with the behaviour considered "impolite" during the trial of HR Darsono on January 8, 1986.

In the hearing, the grey-haired advocate abruptly stood up and shouted back loudly with his hand pointing to the judge who blamed him as "unethical."

He also expelled out of the court a cop who entered the court room to provide security, shouting, "This room is under the judge's authority, not the police. Police! Get out of here!"

So far, Buyung himself always challenged for a trial, given the session was made open in an objective and fair forum in line with the existing law. HR Darsono, former Siliwangi Commander and ASEAN secretary general is now running a 7-year jail sentence after he was declared guilty of undermining the government's authority following a mass riot that claimed dead victims at Tanjung Priok port of Jakarta on September 12, 1984.

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CSO: 4200/596

NONOIL, LNG EXPORTS DROP

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 11 May 87 pp A3, A4

[Text] Jakarta, May 11 (ANTARA)--The value of Indonesia's non oil exports in the first four months of this year dropped by 55 percent compared with that of the corresponding period last year.

Provisional figures available at Bank Indonesia showed Monday that Indonesia's non oil exports during the period stood at US\$997.2 million, a decrease of US\$1,168.5 million, from US\$2,145.7 million reached in the same period in 1986.

In January and February this year, exports of non oil commodities stood at US\$507,600,000 and US\$415,400,000 respectively.

The biggest foreign exchange earner was tin (US\$128,800,000), followed by timber (US\$84,600,000), rubber (US\$51,100,000), frozen shrimps (19,300,000) and coffee (US\$14,100,000).

The non oil commodities included timber, rubber, coffee, tin, palmoil, shrimps, tobacco, tapioca, handicraft products, rattan, pepper, fertilizer and cement.

Most of them were exported to the United States, Japan, the European Economic Community, the socialist Eastern European countries, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Middle East countries.

In the meantime, the export of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in January and February this year also experienced a decline by 38 percent compared with that of the same period in 1986.

The value of LNG export during the first two months of this year totalled US\$430.7 million against US\$692 million in the corresponding period last period last year or a drop of US\$261.3 million or about 38 percent.

Most of Indonesia's LNG exports went to Japan and South Korea.

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TRANSMIGRATION LAND OPEN TO INVESTORS

Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 May 87 pp 9, 10

[Text]

Land available in transmigration areas is now open to foreign investors. Two ha of land has been entrusted to each family in transmigration centres and foreign investors are allowed to utilize the land to boost the second phase development of transmigration projects, Minister of Transmigration Martono told news men after he met with President Soeharto at Cendana here last weekend.

National and foreign investors are expected to play a role in the development of transmigration areas in Indonesia, according to Martono. The investors, the minister said, are expected to help resettler families utilize their land.

Land already entrusted to transmigrants can be planted with plantation commodities as part of the handling of nucleus estate for smallholders (PIR) projects, the minister explained.

Some resettler families still leave their land uncultivated, and that neglected land is available for foreign and national investors. The involvement of investors in the development of plantations under the PIR scheme in transmigration areas will step up the sending of transmigrants to resettlement areas.

Martono, on the occasion, also reported the plan to involve the private side in the resettlement of voluntary transmigrants. Thus the sending of voluntary transmigrants to resettlement projects and the development of commodity plantations under the PIR scheme will be integratedly handled..

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SUGAR OUTPUT, IMPORT FIGURES

Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 20 May 87 p 7

[Text]

Sugar production in Indonesia has kept growing in the past six years, while Indonesia's sugar imports had continued to decline till 1985, but rose in 1986 compared with the previous year.

According to data obtained from the Agriculture Ministry, Indonesia's sugar production stood at 1,250,000 tons in 1980, 1,250,100 tons in 1981, 1,626,800 tons in 1982, 1,627,500 tons in 1983, 1,709,100 tons in 1984, 1,724,800 tons in 1985, and 2,022,400 tons in 1986. The projection in 1987 is 2,201,700 tons.

Indonesia's sugar imports, according to data presented by the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), were registered at 401,000 tons - US\$ 163.4 million in 1980, 724,100 tons - US\$ 583.7 million in 1981, 689,800 tons - US\$ 424.4 million in 1982, 169,400 tons - US\$ 135.4 million in 1983, 3,900 tons - US\$ 4.5 million in 1984, 3,000 tons - US\$ 2.1 million in 1985 and 28,500 tons - US\$ 10 million in the first nine months of 1986.

Some 23.69 percent of Indonesia's sugar imports in 1986 came from India, 23.16 percent from South Korea, 21.10% from the Philippines and the rest from Japan, China, Australia, Thailand, West Germany and several other countries.

The rising sugar production in Indonesia is mainly attributable to the expansion of sugarcane plantations, the rehabilitation of sugarcane plantations and sugar mills, and the implementation of the intensification program on sugarcane planting.

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PER CAPITA FOOD PRODUCTION GOALS, FOREIGN AID

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 27 Feb 87 p 3

[Article by Kaeo Suwan: "People's Republic of Kampuchea in 1987"]

[Excerpt] The people of Kampuchea have been leading a new life under the leadership of the Khmer Revolutionary People's Party for 8 years now. This is the second year of the national development plan. Even though the people experienced many difficulties at the beginning of the year, they have succeeded in scoring achievements.

The communications routes have been improved. A Friendship Bridge has been built in Prey Veng Province with the support of the SRV. Agriculture has made new progress since the beginning of the year. The area planted in rubber trees has expanded another 10,000 hectares. The rice area has been expanded in Stung Treng, Battambang, and Phnom Penh provinces. In 1986, Cambodia harvested 2 million tons of paddy. In 1987, per capita food yields will be 300 kg. The area planted in tobacco has been expanded in Kompong Cham and Kratie provinces. With the cooperation of the Soviet Union, the cotton area has been expanded in Battambang Province. Fishing has always been most convenient in January. The fishermen have caught more than 11,300 tons of fish. In this, Kompong Chhnang Province caught 2,630 tons; Kompong Cham Province caught 60 tons; Siem Riep Province caught 380 tons; and Prey Veng Province caught 490 tons. The state fishing sector caught 1,810 tons.

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LAO PUBLIC HEALTH AID TO STUNG TRENG DESCRIBED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 24 Feb 87 p 3

[Article by P. Manithip: "Cooperation Based on Fraternal Friendship"]

[Excerpt] The People's Republic of Kampuchea has received much aid and support gratis from neighboring countries and the fraternal socialist countries. This newly-established country has developed greatly in just a short period of time.

As a country that has fought side by side with the PRK against the same enemy in the interest of the revolution in the two countries, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has given much aid and support to the fraternal people of Cambodia on all fronts. For example, it has provided help on the public health front. Recently, the LPDR sent several teams of volunteer doctors to provide help and work closely with the local people in establishing public health units. These units will look after the health of the people so that they can carry out their tasks as usual. The team working here now is the sixth team to come here. This medical team began working in Stung Treng Province on 15 September 1986. The team, headed by Dr Som-ok Kingsada, is composed of six people who are experts in various fields such as surgery, pediatrics, internal medicine, anesthesiology, obstetrics, and laboratory. During the period that they have been here, they have worked hard to help the people in this province. They have always been ready to serve people both in and outside the hospital, both day and night, and on weekends. During the period September to December 1986, the team scored many outstanding achievements. For example, the surgery section performed major surgery on 7 people, moderate surgery on 10 people, and minor surgery on 30 people. It also performed other types of surgery, including caesarean section and urethrectomy. Even though there was occasionally a shortage of blood and other dangers, all of the operations were a success. Besides this, the medical team has treated people with malaria, liver infections, helped children with cephalgic malaria, and kidney diseases and achieved good results. The obstetrics section has helped women deliver their babies safely. The section has done three caesarean sections. This medical team has scored many other achievements. This shows their sense of responsibility and willingness to overcome the obstacles in order to maintain the health of the people based on a spirit of fraternal solidarity in the struggle against the common enemy. Besides the achievements discussed above, the Lao medical team has also carried out things on other fronts, too. For example, it has participated in important merit-making activities and in political movements and helped establish various mass

organizations. It has also worked to build solidarity and unity with the people and various offices and organizations. The Lao medical team has scored these achievements because of the guidance received from the party and state of the LPDR, the Mahosot Hospital, the Organization Department, the minister of public health, and, in particular, the previous medical team and the Champassak provincial public health committee. Under the close supervision of the provincial party committee, the Stung Treng provincial public health committee has provided good cooperation. The Lao doctors have all shown great faith and patience. The results show the ability of the Lao doctors to overcome the obstacles and their sense of responsibility. They have received great praise and have earned the trust of the people. The Cambodian Ministry of Public Health, the party committee, the administrative committee, the provincial public health committee, the medical cadres, and the Cambodian people have recognized the Lao doctors as medical experts. Even though the results achieved are just a beginning, they have helped strengthen the great solidarity and friendship among the three countries of Indochina, specifically, Laos and Cambodia. The fraternal solidarity and friendship among the Indochina countries is growing stronger and stronger.

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KOMPONG SPEU DISTRICT 'BASICALLY SECURE,' DEVELOPMENT SEEN

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 5 Mar 87 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Oudong District, the Strong District of Kompong Speu Province"]

[Excerpts] Oudong District, Kompong Speu Province, is located 52 km northwest of Phnom Penh. This is a strategically located district militarily, politically, and economically. Several highways pass through this district. This includes routes 26, 33, and 114. The railroad also passes through the district. The district is composed of eight cantons and 243 villages. Today, Oudong District is making major changes. The district used to be an important zone of operations of the Pol Pot clique. In order to eliminate these reactionary forces and turn the district into a peaceful area with houses, offices, schools, and hospitals, production is being carried on diligently. Under the guidance and leadership of the various echelon party committees in Oudong District, the quality of all the organizations has been improved. Many local armed units have been limited. Each village, canton, organization, and office has its own defense forces. For this reason, last year, the district was basically peaceful. At the same time, during the last 6 months of 1986, the entire district carried on national defense activities and, with the help of the province, worked to build the economy. Video cassettes on growing rice during the various seasons were disseminated to the villages. Since then, the people have felt more at ease. The dry-season and broadcast-sown ricefields have produced good yields.

Besides national defense and agricultural activities, the district has given attention to educational and public health activities. Today, the district has 4 secondary schools, 24 primary schools, 3 kindergartens, and 2 hospitals. Each canton has its own clinic. All this shows that the district has made much progress. Thus, this district is one of the secure districts in Kompong Speu Province.

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FURTHER REPORTS OF WARTIME U.S. AIRCRAFT SHOOTDOWNS

Vientiane KONGTHAP PASASON LAO in Lao 29 Jan 87 pp 3, 4

[Article by S. Vongphouthon: "Defending and Promoting the Glorious Heritage of the Army Units"]

[Excerpts] On 5 September 1960, the Supreme Command of the Lao People's Liberation Army assigned a number of cadres and combatants from various army units to participate in an air defense course on military tactics and strategy, with vehicle assistance and lessons provided by the fraternal Vietnamese Army. After a training period, Air Defense Battalion "B" was officially set up on 18 October 1961. In the beginning there were only 79 cadres and combatants in three companies, 1, 2 and 4. They were provided with modern weapons and assigned to stations located at Pom Gno Khangkhai, Phon Savan, Ban Ang and Ban Dong in Pek District, Xieng Khouang Province.

On 19 April 1962, Company 1 stationed at outpost in Khangkhai fired at U.S. air marauders, and shot down their first plane, a modern U.S. F101 aircraft with four shots. This was the first aircraft to be shot down in our country, and this victory raised the spirits of our cadres and combatants. On 24 June 1964, the Supreme Command ordered the liberation of the Hai Hin Plain in Phon and Kheung Districts and the removal of the falsely neutral Kong Le forces. At that time the battalion assigned one platoon from Company 4 to attack along the enemies retreat route from the Hai Hin Plain to Soui District in the direction of Lat Ngon, Phou Ba [mountain], Khoua Nam Yen Bridge, and Lek Bridge. The task of Company No 2 was to take a defensive position and join with the artillery troops defending Phou Kout. Company No 1 was on the alert to defend Khang Khai. As a result of this battle, Air Defense Battalion "B" shot down 5 T-28 aircraft, damaged 7 aircraft, destroyed 1 tank, and killed 28 of the enemy in a truck. In November 1965, an additional company, No 3, consisting of 200 people, was set up. It spread its forces along assigned areas in Khang Khai, Phan District, Xieng Khouang, Phang District, Ngan District, Tha Thom, Pha Dong, Tat Peup, Nam Tian, Kham District and Seng District, and maintained a waiting defensive position on Phou Kout Mountain. A few months later, the enemies invaded and attacked Phou Kout Mountain with eight infantry battalions along with an artillery company of Thai mercenaries; the U.S. Air Force bombed and damaged the transport route from Nong Het to Khang Khai using B-57 strategic aircraft. Reconnaissance aircraft were used to fly over and search for our strongholds and then indicate to their fighter aircraft the positions to attack. The fight on land was fierce and dragged on for 7 days. The

battalion used independent forces to fight against the U.S. air marauders, while protecting the roads, especially in Tat Peup, in order to assure transport from the rear to the front lines. The battalion used part of its forces to protect offices and organizations, along with one company of neutral and patriotic forces and one platoon from an armored air defense company. In this battle in Phou Kout, 19 aircraft were downed and 57 were damaged, and in Tat Peup 1 57-C aircraft was downed and 2 were damaged. From the end of 1966 to early 1967, the enemies carried out fierce attacks against Phang and Ngan Districts. Our battalion had one platoon from Company No 4 wait to attack the enemies attacking Phou Moun and Phou Hom Tian. They engaged in fierce combat with the enemies on both land and sea and downed three T-28 aircraft and damaged five. The third aircraft was shot down by Comrade Khambe, who was mortally wounded; he gathered his strength to down this aircraft before he sacrificed his life. After the battle was won, Platoon I in Company 4 was chosen as an outstanding platoon, and Comrade Khambe was selected as an emulation combatant in the Xieng Khouang area.

In the years from 1964 to 1969, we carried out regular attacks on the enemies' air route. We also mobilized the people and trained guerrilla militia, and together with the infantry we attacked the enemies continually in eight cantons: Kat, Kong, Kai, Piang, Seng, Thai, Keung and Fad. In 1969 the enemies started a war to save face by attacking and seizing the Plain of Jars. Air Defense Battalion "B" changed its fighting direction in implementation of the order of the zone command and reserved its forces. Together with the infantry troops and Battalion 2, it fought the enemies to save their stronghold. Living conditions at that time were difficult; there was a shortage of food, and the food transport route extended over 100 km. Our cadres and combatants decided to perform two difficult tasks at the same time: attack the enemies and also go for food on the transport route. In this battle Company 4 which was stationed in the San Cho area shot down one L-19 aircraft. Company 1 attacked Hill 1300 and killed 18 of the enemy, injuring 6 and seizing all of the war materiel. Company 3 attacked the enemies on Phou Pha Lai Mountain, killing 9 and seizing 7 guns. From the end of 1971 to early 1972 forces were combined in fighting in Soui District, Route 7, Route 13, Kasi District, and Kiao Kacham. Company 1 together with Battalion "F" moved to the enemies' rear line to attack Phou Khoun Gnai. Company 2 and Battalion "E" attacked Phou Moklangchang. Company 3 and Battalion 4 of the neutral patriotic force attacked Phou Soung Mountain. Company 4 Battalion "D" attacked a "bungalow" in Phou Nam Pek and shot down one HU1A and one L-19 aircraft.

Over the 10-year period of fighting and building the country, Air Defense Battalion "B" participated in protecting our fatherland by maintaining its fine heritage. Along with other units, for example, it punished the reactionaries who came in to encroach upon Don Sangkhi Island and Don Singsou Island. It was a driving force in protecting its sacred territory in accordance with the saying, "when the enemies come we fight, and when peace comes we build up our forces."

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'TALK' ASSAILS U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 20 Feb 87 p 3

["Talk" column by Bounleut: "The Face of a Master Thief"]

[Text] Washington's practice of defending its own wrongdoing or, to put it another way, a thief shouting "thief," has been steadily exposed, especially in regard to the issue of human rights. Although it has spread endless propaganda and slandered the socialist fraternity as violators of human rights, the truth cannot be changed. The truth is that in the almost 20 years since the United Nations announced international resolutions concerning economic, political and sociocultural rights for nations throughout the world, the nation that has most strongly opposed and refused to recognize the resolutions has been the United States itself. Washington refused to recognize the following resolutions:

The international resolution on punishing a genocidal regime approved by the UN General Assembly in 1948

The international resolution on abolishing racial discrimination passed by the UN General Assembly in 1965

The international resolution on punishing war and antinational provocateurs approved by the UN General Assembly in 1968

The international resolution on boycotting and punishing apartheid approved by the UN General Assembly in 1983

The United Nations, which is the highest organization in the world, is now studying and preparing a resolution on the rights of citizens in regard to moving to a place to live. More than anyone else, however, Washington has verbally disagreed with the resolution even before it has been completed. From all this we can conclude that the one who violates human rights cannot be anyone else but Washington and its allies. They raised the specter of the Pol Pot clique, hoping to fight against the revival of the Cambodian people. They support racism in South Africa, help the Contras against the people of Nicaragua, support and assist the counterrevolutionaries in Afghanistan, carry out state terrorism against Libya, etc. All this clearly indicates who has violated human rights. The Washington thief who shouts "thief" has become unfashionable. The master thief will always be a master thief, and nothing will ever conceal it.

USSR-AIDED BRIDGE FINISHED EARLY, OPENING NOTED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 12 Mar 87 pp 1, 3

[Article: "Se Banghiang Bridge Opened for Communications"]

[Text] The Se Banghiang Bridge has been opened to serve communications and transport. The official opening ceremony was held on the morning of 8 March in Sepone District, Savannakhet Province.

Honored guests present at the ceremony were Phao Bounnaphon, member of the Party Central Committee and minister of transport and post office; Bounngang Volachit, member of the Party Central Committee and secretary of the Savannakhet Province Party Committee; along with a number of local administrative committee members and high-level cadres concerned.

Mr (Kukuza), USSR deputy minister of transport construction and chairman of the construction work unit of the Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the USSR and the LPDR, was also present.

During the ceremony, the chief of bridge and road construction company No 1 summarized the construction of the bridge. He said that the Se Banghiang Bridge was begun in April 1984 by bridge and road construction company No 1, and it received aid from the USSR in the form of materials, equipment, vehicles, machinery and technology.

The bridge is large, 200 meters long and 10 meters wide, made of steel-reinforced concrete, and has a capacity of 80 tons. It is the largest bridge on Route 9 and the third largest in the country, after the Nam Ngeum and Nam Kading Bridges on Route 13.

Construction of the Se Banghiang Bridge was completed 1 month ahead of plan. It is of good quality and meets technical standards. This success plays an important part in the steady growth of communications and transport in the LPDR, especially of goods transported from the sea via the SRV to the capital, Vientiane, and other localities.

Later Mr (Kakuza), USSR deputy minister of transport construction, and Bouasi Lovansai, vice minister of transport and post office of Laos, made the hand-over and acceptance speeches. Both speakers expressed satisfaction and extended their congratulations on this success, which plays an important part in promoting and strengthening the increasingly fruitful relation and cooperation between Laos and the USSR.

During the ceremony, Phao Bounnaphon and Bounngang Volachit gave flags to the Soviet experts as well as to the construction company that built the Se Banghiang Bridge.

SRV AID TO LOUANG NAMTHA PROFILED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 25 Feb 87 p 3

[Article by D. Bannavong: "Two Friends, Vinh Phu and Louang Namtha"]

[Text] Since 1979, when the twin provinces of Vinh Phu and Louang Namtha began a close friendship, the people of the two provinces have learned from each other and have helped each other to build and develop their own provinces.

In Louang Namtha there are over six economic and cultural projects that are a result of Vinh Phu-Louang Namtha cooperation. These achievements are like beautiful flowers adorning the garden of great friendship between the twin provinces as well as between the people of the two fraternal nations, Laos and Vietnam. The construction of a radio station in a Louang Namtha district municipality, a good dike and the provincial piped water system, the Nam Yang irrigation project, the school for youth of ethnic groups, and the school for agricultural equipment production have all been completed since 1983, a total of 15 months ahead of the schedule stipulated in the joint agreement. There is also a 100-bed hospital equipped with a labor room, an operating room and a laboratory. The cooperation and assistance of the medical doctors of Vinh Phu and Louang Namtha Provinces have resulted in saving the lives of people in Louang Namtha Province from many dangerous diseases.

Along with sending experts in various fields to assist Louang Namtha, Vinh Phu has also helped to train technical cadres in many fields, and this has steadily deepened the relations between the twin provinces. The projects on which Vinh Phu Province is helping Louang Namtha Province are part of a continuous socialist working process wherein the cadres from Vinh Phu work together with the cadres and the people from Louang Namtha. During breaks they share a common rice platter, drink tea and talk of the heritage and history of the cooperation between the two provinces and between the two nations of Laos and Vietnam.

Each time a project is completed and put into operation, the relationship is celebrated, the achievement resulting from the friendship and cooperation is discussed, and a solidarity dance is performed. The cadres and workers of Vinh Phu Province often recall the image of Me Phosao, who was proclaimed heroine by the LPDR because of her achievements in the two periods of war against the French colonialists and the American imperialists. Although she is old and has grey hair, Me Phosao often joins in the socialist work. She

used to care for and hide Lao soldiers and Vietnamese volunteer soldiers during the wars of aggression. There are also many models and lofty reflections in Louang Namtha Province that are the result of the participation of soldiers and cadres of Vinh Phu in helping the people in Louang Namtha Province, demonstrating the love and sincerity between the people of the two provinces which are advancing along the path of progress and stability.

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POST, TRANSPORT MINISTRY OVERSEES ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 9 Mar 87 p 2

[Article by Oudom: "A Shift to Business Methods in the Transport and Post Office Ministry"]

[Text] Transport and posts is an economic branch of the government, the primary duty of which is to make its work and that of communications a spearhead in response to the demand for national economic expansion. The state enterprises under the Transport and Post Office Ministry, totalling 12 companies in the capital, Vientiane, and the various provinces, are involved in production, services and technology.

In order to carry out these tasks successfully and maintain an efficient pace of expansion, the ministry organized its own guidance committee for a changeover to business methods led by the minister. The vice minister, who has overall responsibilities, is assistant chairman; the committee is made up of a number of department chiefs and directors of the companies.

At the same time, a committee for implementation of the work was set up to oversee three companies. Its goal is to accelerate the experiment of the Lao-Soviet Friendship Auto Repair Company, the Lao-Swedish Friendship Auto Repair Company and the Auto Transport Company. Also, in order to provide an appropriate guidance process and to assure efficiency, the enterprise companies also set up a subcommittee to inspect the changeover to business methods, having the director in charge, the assistant director of the technical area as its assistant chief and the chief of financial planning, labor and salaries, and a committee consisting of a first class engineer and the secretaries of the trade union, the youth union and the Lao women's association.

After the formation of committees at the ministry and company levels, unified inspection and assessment and correct classification were established with a view to improving technical knowledge. Then unified accounting was set up, particularly on behalf of the cadres who go out to inspect the fixed assets and the revolving capital, which are important. The committee is divided into three main sections. One section is responsible for summarizing lessons learned, regulations, organizational structure, internal regulations, wages and salary; the second is responsible for finance and property inspection; and the third is responsible for planning, setting unit prices of major items,

establishing economic and technical data, rules, etc. These form the basic structure and are the core of actual practice for the conversion to business methods in the Ministry of Transport and Post Office. Since the changeover to business methods, results in various aspects have demonstrated the effectiveness of this move. For example, in terms of organization the administrative sections (indirect production of factories) have been reduced from 40 percent to 11 percent. There has also been a decline in the management work of various sections by reduction of the number of intermediary links; for example, the Lao-Soviet Friendship Auto Repair Factory in Dong Chong, which had 12 intermediary links prior to the economic conversion, now has only 7; the Km 14 factory has reduced their number from 23 to 11, etc. In terms of management, through accounting and financial planning, it is possible to ascertain the situation every day and to follow the detailed financial accounts. The income has doubled, the debt has been mostly paid off, etc.

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ROUTE 9 CONSTRUCTION CHIEF GIVES PROGRESS REPORT

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 7 Mar 87 p 2

[Article by Boungnang Saipangna: "A New Day on Route 9"]

[Excerpts] Thongleun Phomlouangvisa, party committee member of Savannakhet Province and chief of the Route 9 construction command, told our reporter that because of the great and valuable assistance of fraternal socialist nations such as the USSR and the work of the labor force on all sections of our Route 9 construction project, the construction plan for this road has been achieved step by step.

In 1986 our workers were able to improve the level of the road from Se No to Keng Kabao and carried out repairs to the completed sections, where they fulfilled the annual plan for digging by 166 percent, for filling in the roadbed by 131 percent, and for surfacing the road by 119 percent. They produced 163,790 cubic meters of rock of all types, transported 103,434 cubic meters of rock from the rock pit to the road surface, and provided over 1,500 tons of hot asphalt for paving the road.

Up to now, 95 percent of Route 9, the total length of which is 241 km, has been filled and the dirt packed down. Also, asphaltting has been completed on the section from Se Thamouak to Phalan, a length of 54 km, which is 7 percent above the annual plan. Since 1985, 76 km of Route 9 has been asphalted; from the Vietnamese border, Route 9 has been paved for 120 km or 49.79 percent of the total length of 241 km.

The construction of strategic Route 9 in accordance with international standards is expected to be completed by the end of 1988.

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VIENTIANE BRINGS PRIVATE SECTOR INTO STATE SYSTEM

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 25 Feb 87 p 2

["Our Capital" column by Sengsouli Sonsoulin: "Vientiane Capital Trade Earnings Rise More Than 60 Percent Over 1985"]

[Text] After the national liberation, the government brought many basic economic sections under its control and also set up new ones. As a result, there has been a gradual creation of the government economy. In the first period of transition, trade is the most important and basic link in transforming the private economy step by step. When it is combined with agriculture and industry, the rural areas can be connected with the districts, and the workers and farmers can carry out their economic obligation. The aim is to boost the national economy in a steady fashion.

Under the close guidance of the party committee in Vientiane Capital, the Vientiane Capital Administrative Committee trade has undergone systematic improvement. Last year Vientiane Capital Trade was able to earn 34 percent in excess of the plan, which was 67.6 percent over the figure for 1985. For the first time in 10 years, the amount it contributed to the government treasury was 56.9 percent in excess of the plan. Vientiane Trade also developed extensive trade relations with 10 other provinces in the country, and increased trade relations with Hanoi Capital and Ho Chi Minh City; the trade relations with other nations grew in number and value. In order to boost production and raise the standard of living of the people, Vientiane Capital has also improved and expanded the trade network at the grassroots levels on a continuing basis. Here there are 38 general stores, 17 government employees' stores, 206 stores [where prices are] marked, 197 people's trade co-ops, 8 tailor shops, 10 hotels, 4 tourist sites and 33 restaurants. Also, 7 factories in the private sector have been shifted to collective production, such as the factory for producing insulated plastic bags and toothpaste, the factory for producing paper for cigarette wrappers, the factory for making colored water [sic], the soap and detergent factory, the candle factory, and the food concentrate production factory. Along with these, Vientiane Trade has also brought the private sector purchase of animals and sale of meat and purchase and sale of rice under the government guidance organization, etc.

In 1986 Vientiane Capital successfully held the second trade meeting of co-ops from throughout Vientiane Capital following the directive of the Council of

Ministers and with the agreement of the Vientiane Capital administrative committee. Vientiane Capital Trade also successfully held the That Louang Market Fair in 1986. In order to expand and build its trading strength, Vientiane Capital held two seminars on specialized tasks and engaged in an extensive search for sources of export goods within its own area and in other provinces nationwide.

For the 1987 plan, Kongpheng Souttavong, chief of the Vientiane Capital Trade Section, also told us that, relying on the combined force of 2,365 cadres and workers that successfully carried out the work in the past, the Vientiane Trade plan for the purchase of goods is 50 percent higher than that of 1986, and for exports is over 80 percent higher. In conclusion, Vientiane Capital will try to earn nearly 30 percent more in kip and foreign currency than in 1986.

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ARMY PAPER STRESSES ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Vientiane KONGTHAP PASASON LAO in Lao 29 Jan 87 pp 1, 4

["Editorial" column: "We Should Promote Self-Reliance and Self-Sufficiency, Strengthen Ourselves and Fulfill Our Duty in Economic Construction"]

[Excerpts] From the day the LPA was established, along with emphasizing combat duty, it has raised the spirit of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, it has grown in strength and it has shown determination to boost production in order to lessen the need for care by the people. We have set up a fixed logistics system and have taken part in raising our standard of living. During the national democratic revolution, whatever the time, environment or conditions, our army has attempted to carry out its duty in regard to cultivation and animal husbandry, mobilizing the people to construct logistics bases and to attack the enemy and seize enemy property and food supplies for ourselves. The results in regard to increasing our fighting forces and fulfilling our duty have been outstanding.

Following the complete liberation of the nation, participation in economic construction has become an important duty of our army. As stated by the plenum of the Third Congress of our party, "While carrying out its duty in preparation for combat readiness, the army must organize its units in such a way as to boost production in order to respond to the need to raise the soldiers' standard of living." Meanwhile, we must mobilize the strength and capability of the national defense factories to participate in the economic movement appropriately and to use some of the forces for constructing the national defense economy.

Our company has fulfilled many important tasks on the battlefield of socialist construction. On the production battlefield our army has constructed many factories: automobile repair and household item production factories, pharmaceutical factory 104, a clothing factory, a candy factory, a sugar production factory and a food production department. Also to our credit is the setting up of the Mountain Area Development Corporation to generate national defense economic construction, for our army, as well as implementation of the policy of turning to the east set by the party and the government. The army has also taken part in the construction of many communications routes in order to facilitate transport and circulation work.

Because scientific technology and economic management are still limited and the concept of administrative subsidy is still strong, in regard to economic

construction the production of many departments is not yet high and there is waste of materials and equipment. The quality of products and construction is not even, and in many places it is still low.

In order to expand the heritage of self-reliance and self-sufficiency and to strengthen ourselves for the future, for the urgent economic construction and the expansion and improvement of national defense fulfillment of our production duty and participation in the economic construction of our army is a major task. First of all, we must promote the production of foodstuffs and household items, take part in boosting production for society, train a fixed logistics unit, and raise our own standard of living. Furthermore, we must try to take part in local economic construction and in constructing the important industries of the government. There are still many problems in economic construction; enemies are trying to dismantle our economic system nationwide. Therefore, a great effort is demanded of our entire army. Each unit must promote the heritage of self-reliance and self-sufficiency and must strengthen itself. Each unit must struggle against the idea of waiting for and relying on the higher echelons. Instead, each unit must become a driving force and be creative in looking for every possible way to solve problems and to achieve the production goal. Based on the assigned duty, the specialized task organization must study and ascertain the capability and precise circumstances of each army unit so as to prepare a detailed production plan, select the proper technique and size for the work organization, and assure that the unit fulfill its duty in preparing for combat and its production task as planned and assigned by the higher echelons. Experience in production from past years shows that those army units assigned direct combat duty and positions of combat readiness can also carry out small-scale production within their own camp, and they must participate in local economic construction.

The first rule is that the level of production must be fairly high, not only for the benefit of collective production but also in support of self-sufficiency. Thus, to participate in economic construction means that we must raise the level of management, set up the work organization scientifically, resolve to apply scientific efficiency in production, and be thrifty and struggle against the attitude of "working only until things start to take shape." We must produce according to our means, and we must expand and use all our potential in regard to work, land and existing technical equipment in the unit for economic construction.

By participating in economic construction, the military forces often forge a close relationship with the work sections and with the many localities and units involved in the state economy. There must be interaction, solidarity and close cooperation among the units so they can help each other to overcome difficulties in production.

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COLUMN JOINS DEBATE OVER TAXES, COMPULSORY RICE SALES

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 23, 24, 25 Feb 87

["Conversation with Readers' Friends" column: "Why Do We Exchange and Sell Rice to the Government?"]

[23 Feb 87 p 2]

[Text] Question: Dear VIENTIANE MAI editor: We have heard that the people in various areas have taken part in paying agricultural taxes and in selling and exchanging rice with the government. But many people do not understand why farmers have to do this. Some people even question why there is compulsion to do so. Please explain this matter to us. This is all for now. Thank you, Latdavan.

Answer: Dear Latdavan: Thank you for your question. In fact this question is not new. Our farmers and the people in general understand and are admirably carrying out their obligation with a high sense of awareness and voluntarily. Nevertheless, some people may not yet understand and may speak derogatorily about this practice. Even worse, undesirable people have obstructed and created confusion, resulting in further misunderstanding of the problem on the part of the people. It is regrettable that these people are inherently selfish. They do not think of the interest of the nation as a whole. The building of our nation is made difficult and confusing because of these selfish people. In fact, it is not entirely correct to lay the blame on an inherently bad nature. Instead, we must blame this selfishness on the feudal colonialism that overwhelmed our people's minds, causing them to become deaf and blind, with no rights and no voice, to have nothing, not even nationhood itself. Historically our country was barely visible as a nation. It was a colony of other nations for many hundreds of years, from the Siamese reactionary feudalists to the French imperialists and then the American imperialists. When the reactionaries and imperialists controlled the country, our people had to pay taxes and were forced to work as coolies with no payment in return. Paying taxes at that time was extremely cruel; it would be more correct to say that it was robbery. For example, when the Kingdom of Lansang was under the Siamese reactionaries, each year the Kingdom of Lansang had to pay taxes--at that time the payment was in silver, gold, jewelry, cattle, horses, elephants, fabric, food, people, etc.--in enormous quantities.

[24 Feb 87 p 2]

[Text] Then came the time when the French and American imperialists collected and robbed the property of our nation even more.

It is very sad to review the history of our nation. The Kingdom of Lansang was once civilized, wealthy and famous in Asia, and yet, according to a French writer, "it is incredible that Vientiane (the Kingdom of Lansang) has only piles of gravel covered by trees left; there is no trace of the former civilization at all." This writer came to Vientiane after it was plundered for the last time by Siamese reactionaries (when Prince Anouvong lost to the Siamese reactionaries). Prior to this, Vientiane had been famous as one of Asia's beautiful cities; it had once been so prosperous that foreigners came to see and praise it. Those who follow history have read about this already.

Why do I bring this issue up for discussion? Isn't it really beside the issue? I beg to assure you that it is not beside the issue. The reason I have brought it up is that I wanted you to understand what the Lao people were like when our nation was a colony of other nations, what the slave tax payments were like, so we can compare that time with our present independent status, to see how different they are.

The payment of agricultural taxes is the obligation of a good citizen. No matter what the nationality or race, people throughout the world have an obligation to their nation. They must be responsible for their own nation--for example, providing materials, labor and sweat for the nation based on their obligation and their own ability, which becomes the capital for national construction and development. What we provide to our nation will always be returned to us both directly and indirectly. For example, in our families, it will make everything easier for us if we have money and all we need. On the other hand, if we lack money, there will be no way to respond to our needs. The same goes for our nation. If the people of the nation do not help it, how can our nation grow?

[25 Feb 87 pp 2, 4]

[Text] Many people see only one side of this issue. They do not look at it from a broader perspective. For example, when the roads or electricity are not in good working order, they complain without thinking about what they should do for the nation in order to solve the problems and make things easier for themselves. Thus, it is time we took joint responsibility for problems for ourselves and our children.

The same goes for the sale and exchange of rice with the government during the period of carrying out the national democratic revolution as well as after the liberation in advancing to carry out the revolution, the transformation and socialist construction. Our people are honored to provide their property, sweat, energy and their beloved children for the struggle and construction of the nation. Therefore, now in carrying out our obligation to exchange and sell rice to the government, the purpose is to feed the cadres, soldiers, police and government employees whose task is to protect the nation and to

provide security for the people. If we carry out our duty to sell and exchange rice with the government effectively and adequately in response to the need, our forces will be facilitated in performing their duty and the people and the farmers will be happy and free to make their living. And as a result, conditions will gradually improve.

In selling rice to the government, we must calculate the amount properly, because the government sells the rice to government employees at 27 kip per kg of regular rice. So if a farmer thinks only of the money and not of the price, this is not right. Many people do not understand the problem of pricing and think only of their own benefit. For example, they will seek the capitalist who pays high prices, without thinking that the capitalist exploits the hoarding of rice as well as raising the price of goods. When the capitalist purchases rice for hoarding, he sells it later to the farmer when the farmer is short of rice at an exploitative price. It is the farmers, cadres, police and government employees themselves who are ill served both ways.

As we have said, our country will not become prosperous without the participation of our people. Our farmers should really be aware of these problems and realize that it is wrong to go after the prices paid by capitalists, because the capitalists do not help to construct an irrigation, system, dig irrigation ditches or build roads for us at all; it is only the party and the government that are concerned with us. When there is no irrigation, the party and the government work hard to set up a plan and begin the construction. As a result, the people in that area have a good standard of living. But when the farmers have rice and they sell it to the capitalists, who come back to exploit them, that is not right. This is not said with disdain. Although it is hard to listen when something is said honestly, nevertheless it is true. We must really think about this matter. It is not true that anything to one's advantage is good, without thinking about what the disadvantages are. This is all for today. Please write again if you find any part of my explanation unclear. Thank you.

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BRIEFS

TRANSPORT CORPORATION EARNINGS, PROFITS--Last year the Land Transportation Corporation of Vientiane Capital achieved many successes in its work, such as in the production and goods circulation plans. A total of more than 44,000 tons of goods was transported, whereas the plan called for 35,500 tons. Annual earnings came to 48,709,756 kip, whereas the plan called for 48,485,240 kip. The corporation will hand over more than 10 million kip to the government treasury after subtracting all expenses. Its actual profit in 1986 was over 7 million kip. [Text] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 10 Mar 87 p 1] 9884/12859

CHAMPASSAK MILITARY RECRUITMENT--The youth union members in Champassak Province scored many achievements in 1986. Serving voluntarily in national defense and security work were 744 youth union members, including 16 women. [Excerpts] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 21 Feb 87 p 2] 9884/12859

SARAVANE 'MISLED' SURRENDER--In 1986 many LPRP youth union members in Saravane Province fulfilled their obligation by voluntarily joining the ranks of the regular forces, the regional forces and the guerrilla militia, resulting in peace and order throughout the province. They were also able to mobilize a number of misled to become good citizens. [Excerpts] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 24 Feb 87 p 2] 9884/12859

BOLIKHAMSAI BANK DEPOSITS--In 1986 the cadres, workers and people in Bolikham-sai Province deposited over 1.3 million kip in the provincial branch of the state bank. The outstanding districts in terms of deposits were Paksan District with over 189,000 kip and Pak Kading District with over 66,000 kip. The work sections that were outstanding in terms of deposits were the provincial bank section with over 54,000 kip, forestry enterprise No 1 with over 136,000 kip, and the Paksan sawmill with over 73,000 kip. Outstanding cantons in terms of deposits were Sinsai and Paksan Cantons, which had over 31,000 kip each. [Excerpt] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 12 Mar 87 p 1] 9884/12859

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RADIO VERITAS' BISHOP BUHAIN VISITS AUSTRALIA, ASKS AID

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 8 Apr 87 p 8

[Article by Alan Gill]

[Text] Father Teodoro Buhain lost his job as a university chaplain when President Marcos declared martial law in the Philippines.

History takes novel twists. The sacking led him to take an interest in broadcasting, ultimately becoming head of the Church-owned radio station, Radio Veritas (Truth), which many believe brought about Marcos' downfall.

Bishop Buhain, as he now is, is visiting Australia as a guest of Australian Catholic Relief. He hopes Australians might contribute to the station, which has an overseas service in 13 South-East Asian languages and needs about \$100,000 to update its studios.

He says the role of Radio Veritas was purely informational, but admits its "without fear or favour" bulletins in the Marcos regime's final months probably jogged along the country's bloodless revolution.

That Cory Aquino's Government came to power without bloodshed is regarded by many Catholic Filipinos as "miraculous", he said.

"We with eyes of faith may say: 'Well, there was a series of miraculous events.' But things could easily have been otherwise. Soldiers can be murderers — you know the phenomenon of itchy fingers. Somebody might have been naughty, even as a prank, and the result could have been disastrous."

Bishop Buhain said the station's role in those momentous events began when a reporter rang the exiled Opposition Leader, Senator

Benigno Aquino, in the US. "We asked: 'Are you coming back?' To our surprise, he said: 'Yes.'"

The station prepared special coverage and had staff at the airport. When Senator Aquino stepped off the plane, he was killed by an assassin's bullet. Radio Veritas reported it faithfully. The official media's main story was that a woman had been hit by lightning.

During the snap presidential election on February 7, 1986, Radio Veritas was non-partisan. "Marcos was unhappy because we were giving air time to Mrs Aquino. Mrs Aquino was unhappy with us because she wanted more air time," Bishop Buhain said.

"But when the defection of Ramos and Enrile was announced, and especially after the appeal by Cardinal Sin for people to gather in the street and really keep the two armed groups apart, we decided to go all the way.

"It was no more a question of partisan politics, it was a question of really coming to the service of people."

During the final hours of the struggle, the staff of Radio Veritas was holed-up in the studios while government troops destroyed the transmitter. When the emergency transmitter finally gave up the ghost, another was found, but it was caught in the military's crossfire.

"People were saying: 'What do we do now?'," said Bishop Buhain. "Ours was the only organisation to have credibility."

At one point, Cardinal Sin telephoned to offer his prayers. Bishop Buhain suggested he ask the US Embassy to fly in another transmitter and lower it to the roof by helicopter. The Americans replied that this was "impractical", requiring White House approval.

General Ramos, who had turned his rifles in favour of Mrs Aquino, found them another to keep transmitting the news of People Power.

"General Ramos sent 120 soldiers to protect us because he realised the power of the media," Bishop Buhain said.

Despite increasing tensions, he is optimistic about the Philippines' future, but wishes more countries had responded to Mrs Aquino's

appeal for foreign investment.

"Our economic situation is very problematic, but I see light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

Another prominent Filipino cleric, Bishop Antonio Fortich, has been compelled at short notice to cancel a proposed visit to Australia.

Bishop Fortich, who heads the National Secretariat of Social Action in the Philippines (NASSA), was to have spoken at public meetings in support of Australian Catholic Relief's *Project Compassion* Lenten Appeal, but his other role as chairman of the monitoring committee of his country's recent 60-day cease-fire has kept him there to continue checking on the process towards peace.

Bishop Fortich and another leading Filipino churchman, Bishop Francisco Claver, have criticised the National Civic Council and its leader, Mr B. A. Santamaria, for using "abhorrent" tactics likely to "discourage support" of the Australian bishops' *Project Compassion* appeal.

Mr Santamaria and other Australian Christians of right-wing persuasion have accused Australian Catholic Relief, its sister agency, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, and some Catholics in the Philippines of supporting left-wing causes.

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CSO: 4200/604

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ON COPYRIGHT LAW

BK211120 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 21 May 87

[Interview given by Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan to reporter Sitthisom Muthanukunwong on Amendment of the Copyright Act of 1978--recorded, date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Praphat] The reason we have to propose the bill on the amendment of the Copyright Act is that we concluded an agreement on amity and economic relations with the United States in 1921 [as heard] which was later amended in 1966. Article 5 of the agreement stipulates that the signatories shall provide protection for each other's artistic and literary works. The United States has informed us that it has complied with the article since 1968. Moreover, the amendment of the Copyright Act, if made under the agreement, will ensure normal trade between the two countries. The annual value of bilateral trade is estimated at about 42,000 million baht. According to last year's statistics, we had a trade surplus of about 7,000 million baht with the United States. Meanwhile, we exported goods worth about over 9,000 million baht to the United States under the GSP. Therefore, we have to amend the act.

[Sitthisom] How was the bill drafted before it was submitted to the Cabinet?

[Praphat] After we were contacted by the United States, we appointed a committee named the Thai-U.S. Economic Relations Committee. The committee is co-chaired by the foreign minister and Minister Chirayu Itsarangkun na Ayutthaya. Members of the committee include permanent secretaries of the ministries which are responsible for the economy in the country. The committee studied the issue and presented recommendation through the Foreign Ministry to the government.

The act only provides protection for artistic and literary works and does not include computer software. Some people might say that U.S. law also covers this product, but Thai law does not. You cannot use U.S. law in Thailand nor can you use Thai law in the United States. The interpretation must be made in accordance with Thai law. I can confirm that the law does not cover medicine, agricultural equipment, and seedlings. We have made it clear to them that we cannot comply with their request in this respect because it can affect the majority of our population.

If we fail to show any effort to amend the Copyright Act, the United States might reduce or suspend the GSP privileges for us. The United States will review this matter on 1 June. Last year alone, the GSP privileges helped us to sell goods worth over 9,000 million baht in the U.S. markets. Without GSP privileges, we cannot compete with other countries. Meanwhile, the GSP will encourage the flow of our industrial products into the U.S. market. The U.S. Act 301 can pose another problem as other countries have experienced. The law empowers the U.S. administration to take any retaliatory action against a country or trade partner which has failed to duly protect U.S. intellectual property. Japan, Korea, and Taiwan are good examples. In the case of Japan, the United States imposes 100 percent import duty on Japanese semiconductors. This Japanese product thus cannot compete in the U.S. market. The United States can treat us the same way. It can increase taxes on our agricultural goods, textile products, and canned tuna. It can reduce import quotas or ban our exports which will adversely affect Thailand. Workers and farmers will all feel the pain.

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CSO: 4200/594

THAILAND

PREM CITES NATIONAL INTERESTS ON COPYRIGHT ISSUE

BK260815 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon told a meeting of the Council of Economic Ministers yesterday that the amendment to the copyright law must be done by "taking into careful consideration the national interest and fairness."

He said all parties concerned in this issue must bear in mind that Thailand will have to maintain economic and trade relations with other countries. "Therefore, (Thailand) must negotiate (with the United States) with a compromising attitude and take care of the continuing relationship based on the foundation of fairness and mutual benefits," he was quoted as saying.

Deputy government spokesman Montri Chenwitthayakan quoted Prem's statement during a press conference after the meeting of the Council of Economic Ministers.

An informed source in Government House noted that Prem's statement underlines his support of the amendment to extend Thai protection to the U.S. copyrights which he had already given during the Cabinet meeting to consider the amendment bill on 12 May.

Prem's support for the amendment was, however, not announced after the Cabinet meeting on 12 May.

During the meeting of the Council of Economic Ministers yesterday, Foreign Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila explained the need to amend the copyright law to satisfy the United States without sacrificing national interests, according to deputy spokesman Montri.

Montri said some Cabinet members pointed out the need for all government parties "to act in unison and speak with one voice" in supporting the amendment since it was already approved in principle by the Cabinet on 12 May.

Asked whether any Democrat Cabinet members raised opposition to the amendment, Montri reported that none of them raised any objection except Agriculture Minister Gen Han Linanon who said he still does not understand some substantive points and he wants to hear more clarifications.

Cabinet members agreed that Prem's two principles--national interest and fairness--are acceptable guidelines.

The premier also approved the appointment of a 19-member committee for the consideration and resolution of economic and trade conflicts between Thailand and the United States which is chaired by the foreign minister.

In a press statement released after the meeting of the Council of Economic Ministers, the major duties of this committee include:

- Examining policies and measures for the conduct of economic and trade relations between Thailand and the United States in order to submit them to the Council of Economic Ministers.
- Resolving immediate problems in the economic and trade relations between Thailand and the United States.
- And coordinating actions and negotiations of various Thai government agencies and private sector in dealing with the United States on a stable and continuous basis.

Meanwhile, the government will air a special TV programme to explain the pros and cons of amending the copyright law to protect U.S. interests, MP's Office Minister Chirayu Itsarangkun na Ayutthaya told a meeting of the Government/House of Representatives Coordinating Committee yesterday.

Sitthi said on Sunday that he will summon Thai Ambassador to Washington Arsa Sarasin to appear on the TV programme along with Economic Affairs Director General Danai Dulalampha as representatives of the Foreign Ministry.

Representatives of the ministries of education, justice, commerce, and science, technology, and energy will also be invited.

Sitthi, who is leader of the Social Action Party, has been anxious to defend his party's stand on supporting the amendment. Some Democrat MP's and opposition MP's have accused SAP of trying to appease the United States with the amendment.

Mr Prinya Chuaiphot, a SAP representative in the Government/House of Representatives Coordinating Committee yesterday called for internal talks among the four government parties before each of them make further public comments on the copyright issue.

"We have to speak with one voice. We cannot allow the opposition to capitalize on our disagreement on this complicated issue," he said.

However, MP Surin Phitsuwan (Democrat, Nakhon Si Thammarat) reiterated yesterday that Thailand is not obliged by the 1966 Thai-U.S. Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations to protect U.S. copyrights because the treaty has never been ratified by any Thai legislature.

The Cabinet of Field Marshal Thanom Kittikhachon on September 27, 1966 resolved to approve the treaty without submitting it for ratification by a national assembly which was in charge of drafting a new constitution. MP Surin contended that the assembly was then functioning as a national assembly and it should have been asked to ratify the treaty.

Meanwhile, the Student Federation of Thailand yesterday told a press conference it will within next week seek clarifications from the foreign minister on several points in the copyright issue.

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CSO: 4200/594

THAILAND

PREM TELLS MINISTERS TO EXPLAIN COPYRIGHT CHANGES

BK270533 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 May 87 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon yesterday assigned Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, PM's Office Minister Chirayu Itsarangkun na Ayutthaya and Commerce Minister Montri Phongphanit to inform the public about the government's decision to amend the Copyright Act, a Cabinet source disclosed yesterday.

The source said, meanwhile, Thai Ambassador to Washington Asa Sarasin who was recalled and Danai Dulalampha, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Department would soon appear on television to explain the need for the copyright amendment and the problems Thailand could face if the law was not amended.

The publicity blitz is intended to give the public a clear understanding of the issue in light of opposition from MP's and student activists.

Ambassador Asa last week sent a long telex to the Foreign Ministry calling for the speedy passage of the copyright amendment, saying the move would serve Thailand's interest rather than that of the United States. He also spelled out the gains for Thailand in amending the law and warned of retaliatory measures from the United States if the bill failed to pass.

Copies of the telex were yesterday distributed to Cabinet ministers and the press.

Minister attached to the prime minister's office Michai Ruchuphan said Gen Prem ordered the copies distributed.

On Monday during the meeting of the Council of Economic Ministers, the prime minister pleaded with his ministers to think of national interests and set aside party politics in making their decision on the copyright issue.

Mr Michai noted the proposed amendment was not intended to please the United States, "but to protect our own interest."

The amendment, he said, would neither affect the country nor farmers.

Mr Michai pointed out the amendment would not extend to computer software which is under the patent law.

As for videotapes, Mr Michai said the amendment would protect local businessmen who pay royalties for the copyright of the videotapes against pirates.

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CSO: 4200/594

THAILAND

SITTHI COMMENTS ON COPYRIGHT ISSUE

BK250343 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 May 87 p 1

[Text] The Foreign Ministry will put on a television show next month arguing the case for the Copyright Act amendment.

Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said yesterday the show will feature talks by Ambassador to the United States Asa Sarasin and Economics Department Chief Danai Dulalampha.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi said the proposed amendment to protect U.S. goods was in the national interest in the long run and was not simply a gesture to please the United States.

The ministry had made ample explanations and "I consider the issue over and it will be now left to Parliament."

He would not personally come out to explain the issue except if the Cabinet made such a request.

ACM Sitthi refused to say if he thought Democrat Party opposition to the amendment constituted a rift in the coalition. The people could judge that by themselves, he said.

Since 1985, he said, the ministry had been negotiating with Washington the U.S. demands, and copyrights would be the only area of U.S. intellectual property Thailand would agree to protect.

While unable to guarantee the amendment would not open the door to more U.S. demands, ACM Sitthi said the ministry told the United States that Thailand could not include U.S. drug patents because the people would be adversely affected.

Passage of the amendment would conform to friendship and trade agreements, and Thailand would lose credibility if it refused to honour them.

The ministry had told Washington of the Cabinet decision to approve the amendment but the matter depends on Parliament, he said.

National Security Council Chief Suwat Suthanukun said on Saturday he doubted the increasing opposition to the amendment would cause serious political complications.

Mr Suwit said those who opposed the amendment were concerned with national interests and they would understand once everything was explained.

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CSO: 4200/594

THAILAND

SITTHI URGES ENACTMENT OF COPYRIGHT CHANGE

BK260816 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 26 May 87 p 24

[Text] Thailand should go ahead with the Copyright Act amendment or risk facing a trade war with the United States, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said this morning.

Failure to enact the amendment could mean loss of privileges under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) as well as retaliation in the form of tariff walls--as were erected against South Korea and Taiwan, the minister warned.

Air Chief Marshal Sitthi made the remarks to reporters shortly before joining the weekly Cabinet meeting at Government House.

He pointed out that the United States was a major export market for Thailand and loss of it would lead to unemployment problems as well as adverse repercussions on the country's textile industry.

Many people were still confused with the proposed amendment and the Foreign Ministry was now drafting a clarification which would be presented to the Cabinet and the public at large, he said.

The amendment issue stemmed from trade talks in 1985 when the United States demanded "fair and free" trade, he recalled.

The United States made special requests on six items: soya bean, cigarettes, patents, copyright, trademarks, and tariffs on agricultural products.

Of the six, the Thai side agreed on three: soya bean, trademarks, and copyright, he said.

On the matter of copyright, Thailand made clear that the final decision rested with Parliament as it was still a poor country, he noted.

But the foreign minister said he promised to see to it that the amendment went through within 6 months.

Other ASEAN states have conceded to the U.S. demand on copyright, Indonesia being the latest, he added.

Thailand would only lose if it did not amend its Copyright Act, he stressed. He maintained that he was no lacky of the United States by advocating the amendment but, on the contrary, did so in the interests of the country.

"The amendment will just include the United States among the list of 76 countries under the Berne Convention," he said.

Earlier, political sources noted that the government seems to be going ahead with its efforts to amend the Copyright Act despite questions over the position of the Democrat Party, the main coalition partner, political sources said.

"The Cabinet has already approved the amendment and it was inevitable for coalition partners to comply along the line," Deputy Government spokesman Montri Chenwitthayakan noted.

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CSO: 4200/594

THAILAND

SITTHI: OPPONENTS OF COPYRIGHT LAW 'PLAYING POLITICS'

BK280013 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 May 87 p 3

[Text] People opposing the Cabinet-approved amendments to the Copyright Law are "playing politics," Social Action Party [SAP] leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila said yesterday.

The accusation was made as ACM Sitthi addressed a SAP meeting.

Party spokesman Prasop Butsarakhm explained that "playing politics" is when one says one thing at a meeting but then says something else afterwards.

Mr Prasop quoted ACM Sitthi as telling party members that when the proposed amendments were considered at a Cabinet meeting, none of the participating ministers raised objections.

The party leader said the amendments would have more advantages than disadvantages for the country.

Its textile, maize, and other small industries would enjoy the benefits of the Generalised System of Preferences granted by the United States, he claimed.

ACM Sitthi is expected to recall Thai ambassador to the United States Asa Sarasin to explain to the party why Thailand must amend its law so as to protect U.S. intellectual property.

The absence of copyright protection for American goods here may cost Thailand tax privileges under the Generalised System of Preferences and even that does not mean the U.S. pressure will cease, Ambassador Asa has warned.

He said the loss of GSP privileges might even attract more U.S. attention and cause the United States to increase its pressure on Thailand.

Though Thailand's benefit from the GSP privileges was still small at the moment, it might increase enormously in the future since several other countries were "graduating" from the GSP, thus creating a vacuum which Thailand could fill, Mr Asa said in a telegram to the Foreign Ministry.

He warned that petitions by U.S. businesses for the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to investigate Thailand's lack of copyright protection for American goods could lead to other actions including the enforcement of Section 301 of the 1974 U.S. Trade Act which would adversely affect Thailand.

The move to amend the copyright law to protect U.S. products in Thailand at this crucial time when the U.S. protectionism was probably at its peak might help lessen U.S. pressure on Thailand, Mr Asa said.

He said new industrialised countries had made effective use of the GSP and still considered it valuable.

Top users of the GSP is Taiwan at U.S. \$10.8 billion out of U.S. \$19.8 billion in total trade.

Mr Asa said the GSP privileges for these countries were being lifted because the United States considered them too advanced to justify the privileges.

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CSO: 4200/594

THAILAND

STUDENTS ACCUSE SITTHI OF 'MISLEADING PUBLIC'

BK290003 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 May 87 p 3

[Text] Foreign Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila has promised the United States copyright protection for computer software without telling the public, the Students Federation of Thailand said yesterday.

Federation Secretary-General Apichat Khamdet said software is intellectual property, and according to Commerce Ministry document, it would receive copyright protection.

Mr Khamdet said the foreign minister had been saying software would not be covered by the government amendment of the 1978 Copyright Act.

ACM Sitthi, he said, had promised the U.S. copyright protection for software and then tried to rush the amendment bill through the Cabinet, which was also unaware the bill would be presented to it.

"Can ACM Sitthi deny that when he proposed the bill to the Cabinet the matter was not put on the meeting agenda beforehand?" Mr Apichat said.

"The other ministers thus were not prepared and did not have enough information about the effects of the amendment."

The student leader said ACM Sitthi had misinformed the public by saying Thai textile exports to the United States would be hit if the copyright law was not amended. Textiles are not on the Generalised System of Preferences of Thai exports to the United States, he said, and they were already up against stiff barriers in the United States.

Mr Aprichat said the foreign minister had not listened to the opinions of other groups in society that have been pointing out the disadvantages to Thailand of the amendment.

ACM Sitthi will, however, this week meet student representatives, who will also attend committee meetings of both Houses today to urge MP's to listen to expert advice and start moves in their parties against the amendment.

Ambassador to Washington Asa Sarasin, who was recalled by ACM Sitthi to explain the issue, is scheduled to appear before the Cabinet next Tuesday to clarify the benefits from GSP and the repercussions that can be expected if the amendment fails.

Mr Asa will also appear in a TV show with Economic Department Director Danai Tullalumbha, Foreign Trade Department Director Oranut Osathanon and Commerce Permanent Secretary Phatchara Itsarasena.

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CSO: 4200/594

THAILAND

ENVOY TO U.S. ISSUES WARNING ON COPYRIGHTS

BK270810 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 27 May 87 p 24

[Text] Thai Ambassador to Washington, Asa Sarasin has sent a second warning to the Foreign Ministry that the loss of Generalised System of Preference does not mean that the United States will then stop pressing Thailand on copyrights or patents.

At the same time, he pointed out that the possible benefits from the GSP can be expanded enormously since several countries are "graduating" from GSP and creating a vacuum which Thailand can fill.

Ambassador Asa said that if Thailand should lose its GSP privileges, the pressure will probably intensify because the whole GSP process will attract national attention to Thailand's case.

He said the petitions are for public record, making Thailand an easy target for other courses of action such as petitions under Section 301 which reviews unfair trade practices against the United States and includes intellectual property rights protection.

The ambassador said it will make it more difficult for Thailand to argue that it is a fair and reasonable trader unlike the favourite U.S. target, namely Japan.

On the other hand, a move toward amending Thailand's copyright laws at this crucial time when U.S. protectionism is probably at its peak is a move that would lessen the present strong pressure.

He said newly industrialised countries have made effective use of the GSP and still consider it valuable. Top user of GSP is Taiwan at U.S. \$10.8 billion out of U.S. \$19.8 billion in the total trade.

"The crucial point is that these countries are inevitably being graduated from GSP because they are too advanced in U. S.'s view to justify receiving the GSP. Thus the potential for Thailand to take advantage of this vacuum is vast," he said.

Mr Asa said further that for the top 50 products for which Thailand is receiving GSP, in many cases the tariff rate is very high and GSP must be inevitably produce significant cost advantages, such as artificial flowers at U.S. \$9.5 million, jewelry at U.S. \$5.44 million.

He said there is tough competition in the market for these products.

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CSO: 4200/594

THAILAND

ECONOMIC ADVISER TO PREM SUPPORTS COPYRIGHT

BK221204 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 May 87 p 3

[Text] Dr Wiraphong Ramangkun, an economic adviser to the Prime Minister and a director of Thailand Development and Research Institute (TDRI), yesterday voiced support for the proposed amendment to the 1978 Copyright Act.

Dr Wiraphong said Thailand should be more flexible on the issue in order to maintain the benefits from the Generalised System of Preferences [GSP] privileges.

He said the U.S. call for Thailand to amend its copyright law should be seen as a bargain for economic interest rather than a political pressure on Thailand. "Both countries have their own sovereignty and neither of them can force the other to do what it wants."

Dr Wiraphong said the United States has moved on the copyright issue to reduce its serious trade and current account deficits with its trading partners.

The United States has brought up the copyright issue with its trading partners, including Thailand, which have trade surpluses with it.

The United States has asked Thailand during the past 2 years for concessions on 11 points but the Foreign Ministry agreed only on the copyright amendment to the extent that could least affect Thailand, Dr Wiraphong said.

"If we ignore all the requests, the United States is in a position to do whatever it can to protect its interests because it is one of the most important markets for Thailand," he said.

Thailand has had trade deficits with the United States for years until the United States introduced protectionist measures against other countries and extended the GSP privileges to Thailand, which allowed Thailand to have a trade surplus of \$351 million with the United States last year, Dr Wiraphong said.

He noted Thailand was already bound by the Berne Convention to protect all the 76 signatories. The copyright amendment bill only seeks to afford the same protection to the United States.

The Copyright Act of 1978 gives protection to books, music tapes, movies, records, and video cassettes--which are in the category of literary and art works--of the signatories. The protection does not cover computer software which has been ruled by the Juridical Council as being a scientific innovation, not a literary or a work of art.

Therefore, the amendment also exempts computer software, he said.

In defence of the Foreign Ministry, Dr Wiraphong said the ministry has to propose an amendment "because it is not justifiable for us to argue with the world community over this matter or to request other countries that we can copy their products indefinitely.

"Copying is against professional etiquettes," Dr Wiraphong said.

"In trade negotiations, some concessions have to be made. If the Foreign Ministry makes no concessions at all, it would not be in a position to bargain anything," he said.

Concerning American textbooks, he noted Thai lecturers and students do not like translating them anyway but instead rewrite their contents into Thai. By doing that, Thailand does not have to pay for copyright fees and at the same time lose no academic interest, he said.

However, those who translate American books would be affected by the amendment but their number is very small and so is the readership. This could encourage Thai authors to write more books themselves, he noted.

A small number of people will also be affected by the protection for U.S. videotapes because most Thais prefer Chinese films, he added.

Dr Wiraphong stressed that the GSP privileges should not be abandoned.

He also said when the bill is debated in Parliament all MP's should see to it that the amendment doesn't include computer software since the proposed amendment is rather vague on the issue.

Asked if there is any guarantee that the United States would not demand more concessions after the copyright issue, Dr Wiraphong said the United States would certainly do so.

"But it doesn't mean we have to yield to every demand by the United States. It will depend on negotiations and the willingness to compromise by both sides," he said. "They have the right to make more requests and we have the right to decide whether we should give. We should maintain our flexibility," he added.

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CSO: 4200/594

THAILAND

STUDY GROUP VIEWS COPYRIGHT ISSUES, OPTIONS

BK240327 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 May 87 pp 1,3

[Text] Members of Parliament should be given a free hand to decide the fate of the copyright act amendment, the Intellectual Property Study Group said yesterday.

The group, which comprises university lecturers and representatives of non-government organisations, said the government and the political parties should stop being partisan in their stands.

Instead they should regard the issue as a matter of national importance.

Continued bickering could lead the country into another political crisis, the group warned.

The government should realise that Parliament could "help cushion any international pressure" on the country, said the group.

Although the group did not elaborate, it was understood to be suggesting Washington would not hold the government responsible if the amendment was thrown out of Parliament.

At issue is the protection of U.S. products under Thai copyright legislation. This would avoid U.S. reprisals against Thai exports under the Generalised System of Preferences and section 301 of the 1974 U.S. Trade Act.

The group said that giving protection to American products would ease U.S. pressure for patent protection of pharmaceuticals and other products.

Washington, in turn, might come under less pressure from its own copyright benefit groups, and take the pressure off the Foreign Ministry, it said.

On the other hand, the move could restrict Thai access to U.S. technical publications and cause an increase in the price of technical textbooks.

Textile patterns and designs could also be adversely affected to the detriment of the garment industry, it said.

The products to be protected under the proposed amendment include both celluloid and magnetic should any video [as received].

But it was still not clear whether computer software and semi-conductors would also be covered, the group said.

If software and semi-conductors were included, Thailand would certainly be adversely affected because these products have become the heart of the country's technological, agricultural, and industrial development, said the group.

Copyright protection would give the copyright owners the option whether or not to sell rights to their use. This could affect Thai agricultural and industrial development just as it was reaching a turning point, the group said.

Since the question of computer software had not been clarified, the amendment was possibly a threat to national interests, it said.

It was also possible that the amendment, if passed, would open the floodgates to more U.S. demands for patent protection.

These could include items such as pharmaceuticals and high technology, said the group.

Thailand had three avenues of escape, the group said:

-- The government could decide against adopting the amendment because Thailand is not bound by treaties of trade or friendship.

Current treaties between Thailand and the United States were signed at the time of dictatorial regimes and could not be considered as having the consent of the people.

-- Thailand could agree to amend the law to protect only goods deemed "acceptable" to Thailand.

That protection, however, should not be made in a way that would duplicate the Berne Convention, to which Thailand belongs and the United States does not.

-- Finally, the government could draw up a special agreement with the United States under which protected items would be specifically defined along with the benefits the United States would provide in return.

An agreement that gave something to Thailand in return would prevent signatories to the Berne Convention claiming Thailand was giving preferential treatment to the United States.

Group Chairman Suthi Prasatset said the recommendations would be passed to the government.

MINISTRY CALLS DEMOCRATS 'UNFAIR' ON COPYRIGHT ISSUE

BK220158 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 May 87 p 3

[Text] The Foreign Ministry said yesterday the Democrat Party was being unfair in describing the ministry's explanations of the copyright issue as neither precise nor clear.

Ministry Ambassador Sakthip Krairoek, one of several officials who appeared before a party caucus on Wednesday, said the ministry had prepared a 10-page document explaining why the amendment needed parliamentary approval.

Democrat spokeswoman Supattra Matsadit said the ministry failed to spell out the damage and benefits if the amendment is passed. The Nakhon Si Thammarat MP said the ministry was unable to say if Thailand was bound by two U.S.-Thai treaties which include copyright protection provisions.

Mr Sakthip said explanations were given of the Treaty and Protocol between the United States and Siam 1920, and the Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations 1966, under which the amendment had to go through.

Mr Sakthip also told the Democrats of the repercussions on Thailand if Generalised System of Preferences [GSP] privileges were withdrawn.

Thailand's GSP privileges total \$321 million and amount to about 20 percent of exports to the United States.

Ambassador Sakthip also said regional countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan, and South Korea had made intellectual property right improvements, leaving Thailand on its own.

The Cabinet's 12 May approval of the amendment and expected parliamentary approval, he said, was aimed at giving the U.S. Administration a reason to halt any private sector action against Thailand.

A petition against GSP privileges was not as serious as a Section 301 petition against unfair trade practices, which includes intellectual property rights, he said.

The repercussions of revoking GSP privileges were as serious as a Section 301 retaliation in that retaliation can only be made within the framework of GSP, namely a withdrawal of privileges.

Section 301, however allows the U.S. Administration to take whatever retaliatory measures it deems necessary.

Mr Sakthip said only 11 Section 301 cases had been filed, the result being that each target country had to meet U.S. demands.

The ambassador also told the party that educational books were unlikely to be affected because Thailand for a long time had been paying for these rights and that the Education Ministry had allocated funds to pay for them.

As far as videotapes are concerned, Mr Sakthip said most Thais would not suffer if the amendment is passed.

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CSO: 4200/594

THAILAND

HOUSE CALLS SPECIAL MEETING ON COPYRIGHT ISSUE

BK280015 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 May 87 p 3

[Text] The House Economic Affairs Committee has called for a special meeting on the copyright amendment issue and has invited all other House committees and senators to attend the session tomorrow.

The opposition parties also announced they would present their reasons at the meeting for opposing the Government Bill to amend the Copyright Act of 1978 making concessions to the United States. The session was called in an effort to pool resources and achieve a comprehensive evaluation of the issue.

Meanwhile the opposition and the House Foreign Affairs Committee condemned the government attempt to amend the act and said the decision had been based on imprecise information about its necessity and repercussions, as well as an attempt to rush the House through a topic that should be studied in detail before any decision is reached.

Community Action Party leader Bunchu Rotchanasathian, who is also chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said after a meeting of the opposition at Parliament that the copyright issue should pass through a long and detailed examination procedure because it will greatly affect the country.

He said the government's argument of exchanging copyrights for GSP privileges was unsound because the figures given by the various agencies on this vary widely and are inexact.

He accused the government of ignoring the legislative branch and trying to rush the issue through Parliament without due consideration of the consequences. The U.S. Congress spent 2 years studying copyrights before it made any legislative changes, he added.

"This is a binding contract that the government is getting us into. The legislative process thus should have a meticulous look at the implications but the government said it wants the bill passed by June 1," Mr Bunchu said.

"Once we agree to copyright they will make many more demands while we have not built up any immunity at all," he said.

Prachakon Thai leader Samak Sunthorawet said the government was using the media under its control to brainwash the people on the copyright issue. He said GSP was not worth getting in exchange for copyright because it accounts to only 6.5 percent of exports.

Experts on the copyright issue briefed the opposition yesterday and Mr Samak said the government should not agree with the United States in advance and then try to force an amendment through the House afterwards.

House Foreign Affairs Committee members, Democrat MP's Dr Phiraphan Phalusuk, Ms Suphattra Matsadit, and Dr Surin Phitsuwan told a press conference the committee has been studying the issue since before it was submitted to the Cabinet and disagreed with an amendment.

They said the Foreign Ministry citing of the GSP as a trade-off was incorrect because according to the United States, GSP is not tied to the copyright issue. "This means the United States is not guaranteeing that if the Copyright Act was amended they would give us GSP," Dr Peerapan said.

He said that GSP privileges should not be used as an excuse to yield to copyright demands. Thailand sells some 40,000 million baht worth of products to the United States a year while those sold under GSP are worth 7,000 million baht which should not be exchanged for copyright.

The committee members said the information of government agencies on GSP also contradicted a Foreign Ministry document to the prime minister in September last year putting the value of sales under GSP at 235.27 million baht in 1985, or 17.02 percent of Thai exports to the United States.

However, the Commerce Ministry said this was \$224.26 million for the same period.

The committee commended Thai Ambassador to the United States Asa Sarasin for saying that he would try to convince the United States that Thailand cannot act swiftly on the issue because it has to pass through Parliament.

"Our system is not like those of other ASEAN countries where the legislative branch can be ordered about by the administrative branch," Dr Phiraphan said.

He said the committee felt that more time and detailed consideration should be given to the matter.

Meanwhile, United Democratic Party [UDP] leader Buntheng Thongsawat said he does not know about a proposal by his party's chief adviser Col Phon Ruangprasoetwit urging the prime minister to reshuffle his cabinet so that it would include the UDP. He declined to answer whether the UDP would join the government, saying it was a matter for members to vote on.

But Mr Buntheng said his party had been approached by people in the government.

Asked if Col Phon's failure to consult him would make him a figurehead party leader, Mr Buntheng replied, "it looks that way."

However, he said he was not insulted and could not forbid Col Phon from expressing his opinions.

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CSO: 4200/594

THAILAND

DEMOCRAT MINISTERS SOFTEN STAND ON COPYRIGHT ACT

BK260814 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 May 87 p 1

[Text] Democrat ministers appeared to have softened their stand on the copyright issue when none of them raised any objection to the amendment bill during yesterday's meeting of the Council of Economic Ministers.

Asked if his party had backed down from its previous position, Democrat Party leader Phichai Rattakun passed the responsibility to the party caucus, saying "it's up to the MP's."

The Democrats last week urged that the copyright amendment be delayed before its pros and cons are weighed. They claimed that the Foreign Ministry's explanation had been unclear.

Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon yesterday urged his Cabinet members to think of the national interest as well as trade relations with other countries in making any judgment about the proposed copyright amendment.

Deputy government spokesman Montri Chenwitthayakan quoted Gen Prem as telling the Council of Economic Ministers that a compromise is needed for the sake of future trade negotiations based on justice and mutual benefits.

Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila explained to the meeting why the ministry is pushing for an amendment to the Copyright Act 1978. The ministry, he said, has tried hard to convince the United States to reduce its demands which could affect Thailand.

He told the meeting the Foreign Ministry has recalled Thai Ambassador to Washington Asa Sarasin to explain to the Cabinet and to appear on television to explain why the copyright amendment is necessary.

Asked about other ministers' opinions, Dr Montri said some ministers believed the Cabinet was bound by its earlier decision to go along with the amendment bill. But others urged the coalition parties to weigh the pros and cons of the amendment bill carefully in order to protect national interests.

Dr Montri added that none of the Democrat ministers opposed the copyright amendment during the meeting except for Agriculture Minister Harn Leenanond

who said he was still confused about the issue and wanted more time to study it.

Social Action Party MP Phinya Chuaiphot (Surat Thani) said the government's parliamentary coordinating committee yesterday agreed that a television programme be aired to allow those involved in the copyright law to explain the issue to the public.

The MP also said the public is confused by the arguments of the proponents and opponents of the legislation.

He said the government should allow officials concerned to talk on television in language which the public could understand.

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OPPOSITION TO STEP UP PRESSURE OVER COPYRIGHT ISSUE

BK240142 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] Capitalizing on the growing rift within the government coalition over the copyright issue, the opposition stepped up its offensive yesterday by announcing a major public rally at Chatuchak Park on 5 June to attack the government and to renew its attempt to call for a no-confidence debate in the House.

At the same time, opposition leaders also talked about making preparations for a possible dissolution of the House and joining forces to contest in the next general election under the Benchaphon alliance like that of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) in Malaysia.

Senior officials in Government House agreed that the "political temperature" is on the rise again. One official who asked not to be identified reported that Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon is closely monitoring the situation and has "made preparations" to cope with all contingencies.

Although Prem has not gone to work at Government House since last Tuesday, he has not been idle, the official said.

The official also confirmed widespread belief that Prem will not resign but may dissolve the House when he feels the situation is going out of control.

Activities of the opposition that cause confusion may further prompt the Army to mount pressure on the government to amend the Constitution in order to bar MP's from holding Cabinet posts without resigning from the House, he added.

Muan Chon Party leader Chaloeam Yubamrung said yesterday opposition leaders will meet on Wednesday to plan their joint assault on Prem and some of his Cabinet members during the rally at Chatuchak Park on 5 June.

The rally was also intended for Prachakon Thai candidate Dr Bunthiam Khemapirat to wrap up his campaign in the by-election in Bangkok's Constituency Three. The park, Bangkok's largest, is outside Constituency Three. But it was chosen because the opposition hopes to attract an even larger crowd than the rally at Sanam Luang on 15 May when about 50,000 showed up to listen to opposition leaders criticize Prem and his administration.

Chaloem said the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration has already given the opposition permission to hold the rally at the park.

Chaloem also said Prachakon Thai leader Samak Sunthorawet showed a copy of a bank statement showing a deposit of \$3.7 million in the account of one Cabinet member at Inter-State Bank in Los Angeles during the Friday's meeting. Samak told the meeting he will distribute copies of the bank statement to other House and Cabinet members on the day the urgent motion of the opposition on alleged irregularities and wrongdoings by some Cabinet members is debated in the House.

The opposition submitted the urgent motion to the House last Friday. House speaker Chuan Likphai will make a decision on when the motion will be debated.

An informed source in the opposition disclosed yesterday that a plan is underway to revive the attempt to submit a motion calling for a no-confidence debate against the entire Cabinet. The opposition had tried and failed twice during the current House session to censure the government.

The source said several disgruntled MP's of the United Democratic Party [UDP] have promised to endorse the censure motion if their party is not included in the government in a Cabinet reshuffle by the end of this month.

Defection of the UDP from the opposition bloc foiled the two previous attempts to call a no-confidence debate. The UDP which has 38 MP's is the largest party in the opposition bloc.

Asked about the plan of the opposition to contest in the snap election should the House be dissolved before its term, Samak said he will have to discuss details of this plan with other opposition leaders.

However, it is still uncertain how many opposition parties will join the Benchaphon alliance because the alliance agreement was made long before the defection of the UDP over the censure motion.

Commenting on the rumours about an impending dissolution of the House, Deputy Prime Minister Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan, leader of the Ratsadon Party, said he does not want to see the House dissolved because he is not ready to run in a general election right now.

He said his hardship during his 30 years in the Army pales before the hardship he has had as an MP and party leader for just less than a year. The retired general is a Lop Buri MP.

"We (MP's) have to do everything possible just to get elected to the House. Some were wounded, some were killed during the campaign. MP's, myself included, certainly don't like the idea of dissolving the House," he added.

He also said there is no serious conflict within the present government coalition.

He said Cabinet members are working together like a team with high unity and spirit, unlike in the past administrations when Cabinet members of the same ministry sometimes could not get along at all.

He blamed the press for allegedly playing up disagreement coalition over the copyright amendment.

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COPYRIGHT ISSUE; OPTIONS VIEWED

BK240143 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 May 87 p 10

[Article "By the Political Desk"]

[Text] As expected, the Cabinet decision on 12 May to give copyright protection to U.S. works has raised a hue and cry over its merits from critics within and without the government. Caught under growing political pressure, Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon himself gave his blessing to the proposal which was proposed by Social Action leader and Foreign Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila. But that apparently has not worked to pre-empt the criticisms.

The theme of the attacks is whether the government was bowing to American pressure at the expense of the interests of this country and the apprehension that the move aimed at retaining the Thai privileges under the General System of Preferences (GSP) would lead to more concessions to the superpower which is also demanding patent protection for its pharmaceutical products and the inclusion of computer software in the copyright amendment.

The United States has also demanded protection for its agricultural machinery. A related question is whether it is worthwhile for Thailand to sacrifice the benefits of barring copyright protection to U.S. intellectual and artistic products to retain the GSP privileges which could still be scrapped in the long run.

Obviously, all these are sensitive issues that could easily fuel doubts on the sovereignty of the country and the merits of heavily depending on the superpower in economic fields.

Unfortunately, the issue has become politicized to the extent that criticisms were sometimes not based on an objective assessment of the decision and other options by their real merits and demerits.

As a moderate Democrat commented, some MP's spoke out against the decision simply because they were afraid of criticisms against the Cabinet decision in the press.

"I told my fellow Democrats that we should weigh the pros and cons of the decision before making a comment and even if we believe that Thailand would stand to lose from it, we should also open our minds to try to understand why the decision was adopted," said the Democrat who spoke on the condition that his name would not be identified.

Like the Cabinet, the Democrats were apparently split over the decision. In the Cabinet meeting, according to informed Democrats, party leader and Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun and some other Democrat ministers, including PM's Office Minister Wichit Saengthong voiced support for the amendment of the copyright law on Article 42 which commits Thailand to extending copyright protection for signatories of the Berne Convention. The United States is not a signatory to the international copyright agreement and the amendment would require Thailand to provide copyright protection to countries with bilateral agreements with Bangkok, including the United States which concluded a Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations with Thailand in 1966. On the other end, Science, Technology, and Energy Minister Banyat Banthathan and his deputy Dr Phichit Rattakun were against the amendment for fear that it would affect the interests of their ministry.

The other option proposed to the Cabinet is an amendment on Article 42 and Article 6 (1) at the same time. The amendment on the second point is aimed at diluting the copyright protection for American creators at the expense of the copyright protection for Thai nationals who produce literary and artistic works abroad. Some Cabinet members feel that the second option should be taken because it would minimize the Thai concessions to the United States, but others, particularly the Foreign Ministry, argued that such a two-point amendment would jeopardize the efforts to dissuade the United States from scrapping the GSP rights to Thailand because it would be an obvious lip service on the Thai commitment to the United States. A compromise solution was apparently struck between the two schools of thought when the Cabinet agreed to the first option but at the same time, gave the House of Representatives a free hand to consider "polishing" the draft bill afterwards.

Ironically, it was not a debate on whether Thailand should grant copyright protection to the United States, an issue that was resolved by the Cabinet last year. But as the issue became a public debate, it became blurred. Soon after the Cabinet deliberation, Deputy Premier Phichai suggested that more concessions may have to be made after the amendment. He was short of raising objection to the amendment but it served to fuel skepticism, right or wrong, that the Foreign Ministry would propose concessions to the United States in the future.

Some MP's have also been highly critical of the amendment. Deputy House Speaker Chumphon Sinlapa-acha said that the Foreign Ministry was probably overly worried about the prospect of the GSP rights termination and the possibility that the United States may use its powers under Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Bill to impose high tariff walls or import quotas on Thai goods in retaliation for the lack of intellectual property rights protection for U.S. goods in Thailand.

The Foreign Ministry has reported the high prospects for the two adverse consequences which could be averted or cushioned if the Thai Government can come-up with a justification that it lives up to the commitment to provide intellectual property rights protection. The U.S. Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association has reportedly decided to file a complaint with the U.S. Trade Representatives on the lack of patent protection for U.S. drugs in Thailand, urging the administration to scrap the Thai privileges during the upcoming GSP annual review. At the same time, the International Intellectual Property Alliance is also contemplating filing a request for the government to launch an investigation into the alleged violation of the intellectual property rights in Thailand. If the investigation shows evidence substantiating the allegation, the U.S. President is required to exert his authority under Section 301 to retaliate against Thailand.

The ministry has also contended that thanks to the GSP rights, the trade deficit of this country went down substantially last year and that with the reclassification of Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea which would edge them out of the programme, Thai exports under the GSP could shoot up.

Last year, Thai exports under the GSP worth about U.S. \$357 million and accounting for about 20 percent of the total exports to the United States, rose by about 50 percent from the previous year, according to the ministry.

While the interaction between the GSP issue and the copyright issue is debatable, critics tend to play down the importance of the moral commitment that Thailand has to the United States under the copyright stipulation in the Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations and the fact that the United States has a far greater leverage than Thailand.

Democrat MP from Nakhon Si Thammarat Surin Phitsuwan proposed that instead of amending the Thai copyright law to make it correspond with the bilateral agreement, Thailand should seek to amend the latter. He said that Parliament has never ratified the bilateral agreement.

Technically, the proposal could be an approach to solve the problem but that would deprive Thailand of justification, the only thing that the country has in dealing with the superpower under the present circumstances, to cushion the possible adverse actions from the United States.

It is logical and patriotic to say that Thailand should resist all pressure and not budge an inch. But then, a basic question has to be answered: What leverage does Thailand have now to resist the pressure apart from "justifications"? How the copyright law could be amended is another question but can Thailand avoid the moral commitment?

In this connection, U.S. President Ronald Reagan last year told the Congress that the United States should enter the Berne Convention, though the process would take a few more years.

Another point in case is whether the sacrifices on the copyright issue would be a lesser price than Thailand has to pay than a strong resistance to the U.S. pressure which is now at its height. By all versions, the amendment itself would not greatly affect Thailand and the decision does not necessarily be taken as a prelude to more concessions on more important economic issues in the long run.

Nonetheless, the criticisms have their own merits which underscore the little leverage that Thailand has in dealing with the United States. In fact, if Thailand was given more GSP rights as a result of the reclassification of Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea, then whatever leverage Thailand has now could, ironically, diminish. There is always a price to pay to receive aid unless the United States changed its concept that practically links the GSP aid to other trade issues.

Thus, the uproar over the copyright issue underwrites the necessity for Thailand to make strategic adjustments in economic terms to cope with more pressure in the future.

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THAILAND

THAILAND URGED TO VIEW ETHICAL SIDE OF COPYRIGHT ISSUE

BK230231 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 May 87 p 2

[Article by Pana Chanwirot]

[Text] The seemingly last minute debates on the amendment to the copyright law has put Thailand's reputation, as a morally responsible developing country, on a tight rope.

The Foreign and the Justice Ministries have mishandled the case by arguing for the amendment only on economic and political grounds while the politicians, justifiably, jumped on the band wagon to oppose it.

But everyone has overlooked the ethical and moral sides associated with copyright protection. This is where the confusion lies and without attempts to look into this aspect, Thailand remains vulnerable to retaliation by the United States. A confrontation is certainly in the offing.

We can live with the decisions of our political leaders but we cannot live without morality.

While there are justifiable reasons to oppose the amendment on political and economic grounds if at least to show that the Thai people are not slaves to the United States despite whatever retaliatory measures the United States could impose on us, there is moral question which we all must come to terms with.

We must show that we are a morally responsible country. We must give credit to everyone whether they be American, European, African, or our own people. We must give protection because we simply do not want to steal.

Copyright protection concerns literature and other non-merchandise such as films and music. This issue should not be confused with the protection of pharmaceutical products under the patent law where the morality of Western governments and multi-national corporations remains questionable. The patent issue on pharmaceutical products has not yet been decided by the government. There is a temptation to mix up both issues and lose all sense of perspective.

The debates on the copyright law should not focus on whether it is justifiable or not. We're morally bound by it. The debates and conflict of opinions should be about the degree of protection or the interpretation of the law itself. The debates should also be about how the United States is willing to cooperate to ensure that developing countries such as Thailand are "not exploited" given moral justification on our side to provide protection.

The current debates, so far, have given the Thai people the impression that it may be justified to "copy" and "steal" and delay the process of self-mobilization toward encouraging a "creative" society.

Meanwhile, the justifications concerning patent protection of pharmaceutical products as demanded by Western governments and multinational drugs companies are far from moral political and economic justifications.

There is no moral justification as yet for developing countries such as Thailand to provide patent protection for pharmaceutical products. It is known that this country is one of the testing grounds for new drugs to be dumped and our people have suffered. The permission for firms to export drugs without the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval certainly does not show any moral responsibility on the part of American leaders.

If Western government and drug firms could provide more than an assurance that Thailand or any other developing country is not a testing ground for new drugs, then, there is certainly moral justification for protection leaving only political and economic questions to be debated. The whole subject of pharmaceutical products is a privy North-South issue.

Let's look ahead with vision and condemn the economic powers with moral courage.

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THAILAND

COPYRIGHT ISSUE SEEN AS 'CAUCASIAN PLOT'

BK221052 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 21 May 87 p 5

[Article by Phonphet Sichitchonchai: "Intellectual Property Law"]

[Text] The Cabinet's decision to approve in principle amendment of the copyright law, which is part of the so-called "intellectual property law," has dominated the news of late. Frankly speaking, the amendment is the result of U.S. pressure, particularly the U.S. threat to withdraw special tariff benefits given to such Thai exports as textiles if Thailand refuses to amend the law.

The U.S. pressure is not limited to Thailand alone; several other countries also are subject to these carrot and stick tactics.

Many Thai officials are given foreign grants to tour, study, and conduct research abroad to broaden their horizons about intellectual property law abroad and when they return some of them recommend that Thailand modernize its law to recognize intellectual property like other civilized countries.

This writer confesses that during an observation tour in a foreign country he was once made to listen for nearly 2 hours to an official lecture about intellectual property law despite the fact that his tour did not concern the topic at all, and the whole thing was arranged by a Thai embassy official there.

It is said that any country dealing with the United States will get nothing but scrap meat if it shows signs of appeasement. Likewise, if a country acts tough toward U.S. appeals, the United States will try to appease it.

This writer is certain that Thai academics, journalists, civil servants, MP's, Cabinet officials, or even political parties which oppose U.S. interests will soon become the targets of vigorous U.S. lobbying efforts.

Why does the writer say this? Why does the writer think that the United States and Western countries attach such great importance to the intellectual property law? The answer is a noble truth. That is, people in the United States and Western countries have gradually become poorer because they are at a loss as to which products to produce that will sell. Their products like

automobiles, electrical appliances, clothes, or consumer products have not been able to compete with Taiwan, Korea, and Japanese products. But it is the Caucasian instinct that the white people must live comfortably like the master, never as slave. As their products cannot compete, they turn to sell the last property they possess--their intelligence--which they call "intellectual property." At the same time they establish a legal theory stipulating that intelligence is a kind of property just like other forms of property such as elephants, horses, cattle, gems, and so forth that can be traded, rented, or transferred, and whoever steals it is subject to criminal punishment. After establishing such a theory, the white people seek its recognition in other countries in order to reap huge benefits deriving from their intelligence.

A computer made of metal and weighing 2 kg would cost a great deal of money because a large portion of its price includes intellectual fees. A medicine pill may cost only 1 baht to manufacture but the intellectual fee on it may account to 9 baht. A Christian Dior counterfeit shirt in Bangkok may cost 200 baht, but the genuine shirt made of the same material in France will cost 2,000 baht just because people happen to like the brand name which the clever white manufacturer put on the shirt.

Another noble truth is that there is no way to control the price of intellectual property. All we can do is to develop our intelligence to match it. Some people may believe that it is fair and just to respect the right of the product inventors and that it is unethical to copy a product. If we believe that way we can only blame ourselves for being born less intelligent than the white people and resign ourselves to live with nature like animals whose survival depends on strength, intelligence, and power. But if we are to live like humans, we must demand our rights as humans--the right to be free from coercion and bullying from fellow human beings.

Here are the writer's suggestions: We must be determined not to be bullied on this issue. Most important, we must have a government which is intelligent enough to compete with the white's intelligence. A dumb and gentlemanly government is certain to lose to the United States. The current government is facing strong U.S. pressure because it made a mistake of agreeing to do something. But the speed of the law enactment process is up to us. If it is evident that the Prem V cannot delay the process, a new Prem VI government or something else can replace the current Prem government. This way the copyright bill amendment will be aborted and new negotiations with the United States can begin again from square one. The press and parliament must continue to play their role of opposing and criticizing the United States to the hilt without fear that the U.S. Government will do something to the Thai Government because it knows that the Thai press and parliament are independent of government control. As for the Thai government, it must not succumb to U.S. pressure and must continue to play the two-faced role effectively.

The writer wants to conclude that the copyright issue is a very important issue for the country and the United States is determined. It has a lot of money, which if spent on honest lobbying efforts would not be so bad, but would be worrisome if spent maliciously.

BANGKOK DAILIES VIEW COPYRIGHT ISSUE

SIAM RAT on 'Politics'

BK211224 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 20 May 87 p 3

[Column: "Copyrights Law: Correctness or Politics?"]

[Text] Some groups among us Thai are taking sides with the United States on copyrights and intellectual property protection. They defend the U.S. move as correct and just.

They are like beggars calling for justice for millionnaires. President Reagan should send them medals for protecting justice for the American Government.

The Americans are not taking whatever they can. They will not overlook anything they see serving interests.

It is natural for some Thai groups to welcome copyright protection because their interests are tied to those of American businessmen. The same is true of Thai officials at the Education and Foreign Ministries who have to comply with government policy in their work.

Yet, one wonders why the Thai Government and foreign minister are doing their best to please the United States on this matter. This is what the Thai should be asking.

One also wonders why the prime minister, cabinet ministers, MP's, and leaders of coalition parties all support the amendment to the Copyrights Act. The Thai people should be told why and the amendment is necessary and how it will benefit Thailand in return.

This is not a question of justice but "politics." It involves national interests above all.

It is not fair for the United States to bully Thailand for some insignificant gain. The United States is a rich and powerful country compared to Thailand, which is small and poor.

Is the United States taking advantage of Thailand's having a pro-American prime minister and foreign minister at present?

The United States is the only power in the world that Thailand loves and trusts. It has been a great friend to Thailand throughout this new historical era. No matter what the United States has done to Thailand, which has not always been fair and kind, most Thai do not hold a grudge against it.

They always think of the Americans as their true friends, whom they can look to for help.

On the contrary, the United States has recently been behaving more like our enemy or political rival, trying to take advantage of us in everything, including textiles and rubber and finally intellectual property.

Anyway, they are Americans trying to protect U.S. interests.

Thai who are not American slaves should be able to judge themselves whether the move of a big power against a small nation is fair and correct.

We should pay attention to the "politics" of the matter. We should think of the advantages or disadvantages to the country. And whether we will have to bow to other pressures once we bow to them this time.

We hope our MP's will not fall prey to the arguments of pro-American Thai.

You are the last resort for us.

Opposition to Amendment

BK210946 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 20 May 87 p 8

[Editorial: "No Agreement to Amendment of Copyright Act"]

[Text] The Cabinet's approval of the Foreign Ministry's proposal to amend the copyright law for the United States has become an issue of controversy between the government on the one side and a number of parliamentarians and student activists on the other.

The government, through the Foreign Ministry, supports the amendment because it considers that copyright protection is a principle in international trade and is vital for the country's long-term interests. Besides, the bilateral treaty between Thailand and the United States requires that both countries extend copyright protection to each other.

Those opposing the amendment are afraid that after the amendment Thailand will have to pay high prices for textbooks, translated works, videotapes, and audio cassettes. Moreover, the U.S. approach for the amendment was not sincerely based in the spirit of good friend, but rather was intimidation--the United States would withdraw or reduce the list of goods under the GSP if Thailand did not amend the act. Although the United States now says that copyright protection and the GSP privileges are different issues, nobody believes it.

In fact, the United States does not stand to lose that much even if Thailand keeps its copyright law unchanged. But, what concerns the United States is not really the copyright but rather patent protection for medicine as well as other inventions over which the United States wants to have a monopoly.

If we were a developed and well-off country, we would not oppose such a move. But as a poor developing country with the standard of living of its people still at a low level, we would like to appeal to the United States to consider this matter with justice because Thailand can never compete with the United States in any manner.

There is no point in the United States telling Thailand that it wants to give fair treatment to all research work and inventions. Thailand is always at a disadvantage. In this connection, we believe that our government should not agree to amend the copyright law at this moment.

We wonder whether the United States would really withdraw benefits under the GSP system from us if we do not change the copyright law.

We are not challenging the United States. We only wish to remind the United States that its "gunboat diplomacy" can apply only with some other countries, and not with Thailand. It is Thailand's custom not to hurt its friends.

As for the Thai government, we would like to remind it not to think that what it does is always right--if it was always right, it would not come under strong opposition from the parties within the coalition. It is still not too late to stop any move to amend the Copyright Act and find a better solution for the problem without having to expose ourselves as "slave" of the United States.

Politicians' Role Viewed

BK241324 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 23 May 87 p 3

[Editorial: "On the Copyright Issue"]

[Text] The cabinet decision on the amendment of the copyright act to give protection to U.S. books, songs, videotapes, as well as other intellectual property, has become a political issue because of the conflict between two major political parties in the government coalition over the cabinet decision.

The Democrat Party and the Social Action Party are blaming one another over the controversy. There have been conflicts within the Democrat Party which is the largest party in the coalition over the amendment.

The conflicts over the amendment of the copyright act to please the United States became serious to the point that the prime minister himself had to ask Cabinet ministers not to make comments but to leave it to the government spokesmen to make statements to the public. This is to prevent further quarrelling among politicians.

What happened showed that the cabinet, especially the ministers concerned, did not make adequate preparations for the proposed amendment of such an important law involving vital interests of the nation and which may send repercussions on relations with other countries.

In such a process, the cabinet ministers or authorities concerned should have sent the proposal to the political parties in the coalition for a careful study first. This can be made through the parliamentary coordinating committee which has representatives from the coalition parties as members.

However, this has not been the case. The cabinet approved the proposal quickly before it had been thoroughly studied by all ministers. The government then forwarded the proposal to the parliamentary coordinating committee for endorsement by the coalition parties. Such a wrong step has given rise to a conflict which is blowing up into a political issue.

It is still not too late for the government to take the matter under review. A careful study must be made before any decision should be taken so that there will be no more conflicting ideas about the amendment. The government should not allow the issue to become a political game of blaming on each other. This is not good for the image of a unified coalition or for the nation as a whole.

POST Faults Government

BK230355 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 May 87 p 4

[Editorial: "In a Flap Over Copyright" by Nattaya Chetchotiros]

[Text] The current controversy and debate over Cabinet's approval of the copyright amendment clearly illustrates gross public misunderstanding of the issue, stemming from a sorry lack of clear and coordinated explanation from the government.

It also reflects the failure of certain Cabinet ministers and coalition partners to act boldly in the best interests of the country; some even changed their views--for fear of public reaction and political problems--immediately after leaving the Cabinet room.

The controversy resulting from this performance jeopardises Thailand's image as a fair trader in the eyes of the international trading community, and as a country which is prepared to honour its international commitments.

Clearly, statements by certain ministers during the May 12 Cabinet meeting--which approved the amendment of the 1978 Copyright Law giving protection to American copyrights--and their public statements indicate gross inconsistencies, thereby contributing to the confusion.

During the May 12 Cabinet meeting, two draft amendments were proposed, one from the Juridical Council and the other from the Education and Justice Ministry.

The differences between the two drafts were sharp: the former (which involves amending Article 42 of the 1978 Copyright Act) would give U.S. copyrights the same protection as other nations under the Berne Convention. The latter draft (which involves amending Article 6 (1) of the same act) essentially says that only Thai nationals or those whose works are published and produced in Thailand are eligible for protection.

The Cabinet, including Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon, decided to reject the second draft amendment, reasoning that such a decision would not only infringe on the rights of Thais whose works originate overseas, but also would not afford protection for the United States.

It is interesting to note the somewhat conflicting position taken by Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun, one of the several Democrats to come out in opposition to the amendment, inside the Cabinet as well as publicly.

On May 14 Mr Phichai said that he agreed with protesters who argued that Thailand's benefits from the GSP [Generalized System of Preference] system were diminishing, and urged the government to reveal details of talks with the United States so the public could be better informed.

This may seem to indicate that the Democrat Party leader, who has been foreign minister before and has had dealings with the United States, does not realise what type of advantages the GSP privileges--amounting to U.S. \$351 million and benefitting 20 percent of Thai exports to the United States--afford to certain Thai exporters.

Mr Phichai's statement that Thailand's GSP benefits were diminishing, is somewhat askance to the views he aired in Cabinet, where he said that he understood the pressure which the Foreign Ministry, led by Social Action Party leader Sitthi Sawetsila, has to face from Washington.

Thailand, he said, has promised to change the law (in which efforts and discussions have been made for the past 2 years).

The Democrat Party leader said he agreed that in order to gain larger benefits, Thailand should be willing to lose smaller benefits and that Thailand should not violate its agreements (treaties) with the United States.

Judging from his public statements, Mr Phichai seems to have forgotten what minister attached to the prime minister's office Chirayu Itsarangkun na Ayuthaya said in Cabinet: That he had been working with the Foreign Ministry all along on this issue and that the amendment was clearly "an exchange of benefits" and not submission to pressure.

"It is necessary that we show the United States that we are fair with them as far as trade is concerned," he said. Thailand must send the signal to the United States that it is a country of good intentions and is willing to honour its treaties, Minister Chirayu said.

Despite his statements during the Cabinet meeting, Democrat Party leader Phichai's change of stance could be partially attributed to fear of opposing public opinion on this issue. Similar twinges were apparently felt by other Cabinet ministers too.

Deputy Premier and Chat Thai Party leader Chatchai Chunhawan, for instance, told the same Cabinet meeting he was worried that if the law were passed public reaction could shake the government. This anxiety was shown by other Democrat ministers namely, Banyat Banthatthan, Sawai Phatthano, and Suthep Thuaksuban.

Despite realising that the Cabinet decision would instigate strong public reaction, the government made scant preparations to explain to the people the reasons why Thailand need follow this path.

Democrat Education Minister Marut Bunnak proposed that the Foreign Ministry be held responsible for explaining to the press the reasons for the Cabinet's decision.

But the Social Action Party's Deputy Agriculture Minister Prayut Siriphanit quite rightly said that such an important announcement should be made by the government, through its spokesman Michai Wirawaithaya and Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Michai Ruchuphan.

The explanation given by the government spokesman was too brief and lacked the fullest details possible. Only after public criticism intensified did the government's so-called high-powered Public Relations Committee meet on May 20, where it decided the Foreign Ministry should release full details and explain in full to students, the professions, and other government agencies.

This sideshow in and outside Cabinet not only indicates that certain ministers are prepared to bend when confronted with public opposition--which could have been eased with proper public relations to forge better understanding. It also shows that very little work was done to explain to MP's of each coalition party the need for the amendment and the benefits Thailand gains from the GSP.

This failure has led the MP's to believe that the executive does not consider their role important even though this vital issue concerned the interests of the Thai people as a whole. The MP's have come out saying that the people will suffer in areas of technology like computer software, and that the United States would continue to press for patents of pharmaceuticals.

These issues, however, are not connected with copyrights which deal solely with books, translations, videotapes, and music cassettes--an area in which the United States says it loses an annual revenue of U.S. \$34 million.

Compared to the value of GSP privileges Thailand receives, which benefit many industries whose growth has created more jobs for Thais, the losses resulting from approving the copyright amendment seem, to paraphrase the words of Mr Phichai, worth sacrificing for larger benefits.

MATICHON Urges 'Broadmindedness'

BK241628 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 23 May 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Copyright Law"]

[Text] Although the government, that is, the Foreign Ministry, the Social Action Party, the Democrat Party, and the Student Federation of Thailand do differ in their views about the 1978 Copyright Act draft amendment bill, they have one thing in common, that is the love of their country and the desire to protect its interests.

From the U.S. point of view, certainly the United States would not stop short of asking Thailand to amend the Copyright Act to protect art work and literature. Very likely the United States will finally pressure Thailand to protect intellectual property rights covering drug patents, seedlings, and computer software.

As an independent country, the Thai Government has the duty to sincerely protect the interests of the Thai people. Yet, in so doing, the government cannot ignore political and economic factors as we are a member in the international community bound by political commitments as well as economic relations.

The reasons for the government proposing the amendment of the 1978 Copyright Act must be as follows: first, in respect of the U.S.-Thai bilateral treaties signed in the past; second, in exchange for benefits from U.S. exemption of customs tariff on Thai exports; and third, as a compromise to stop the U.S. pressure to a certain level, thus preventing it from seeking protection for drug patent, seedlings, and computer software.

The government, placed in such a critical dilemma, must courageously and honestly make explanations to the public. Meanwhile, it must be careful in making clear the limit Thailand sets for such a compromise so that there will be a guarantee that Thailand will not have to budge again. It must be careful in particular about the details regarding implementation of the law in case it is amended.

The present political situation calls for the right sense of patriotism as well as openness for opinions of others who are equally patriotic. It is impossible to reject others' views while holding that one's opinion is only right. In fact, the issue of intellectual property rights is not solely the responsibility of the government, political parties, or certain groups in particular, but of the entire people altogether. We must adopt a stand of unity, openmindedness, and patience in order to solve this national problem together based on our love for the country and our concern for national interests. In this manner, we will be able to walk together even though we differ in views and methods.

'Diplomacy' Sought

BK250359 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 May 87 p 4

[BANGKOK POST editorial: "Why Diplomacy Must Take the Lead"]

[Text] Part of the fallout from the controversy surrounding the copyright issues is whether the Foreign Ministry is doing too much or too little.

Those who oppose changes to the Copyright Law of 1978 say the Foreign Ministry has neglected to protect national interests and has bowed to U.S. pressure for an amendment to the law.

By mixing diplomacy with economics, they say, the country has fewer options for dealing with the United States on trade.

Since ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila became foreign minister in 1980, Thailand's diplomatic horizons have broadened greatly.

Among them has been the recognition that economic ills can undermine the ability to carry out effective foreign policy.

The last 6 years have been economically difficult for Thailand, particularly since 1984. The greatest challenge has been the growth of protectionism and cut-throat competition among all trading countries, developed and developing alike.

Thailand, then as now, faces a choice: to adapt our thinking to these new prospects and patterns or to wait until events have passed us by.

Whether we like it or not, out of necessity the result has been a new dimension to Thai foreign policy--that diplomacy must blaze the trail for the country's trade and commerce.

As ACM Sitthi has said; "We will go wherever trade leads us? One of the new foreign policy objectives has been to do business with all countries, irrespective of their political, economic, or social systems.

And given the export-oriented economy which Thailand is fast becoming, it has become the duty of the Foreign Ministry to find new outlets for the country's goods--a task at which it has succeeded admirably.

Thailand's trade deficit during the last 2 years has narrowed significantly.

The 1984 uncoupling of the baht from the dollar, the reduction in interest rates and lower oil prices have, of course, all contributed to the improved economic climate. Nevertheless the Foreign Ministry also deserves credit for initiating the new approach.

ACM Sitthi has sought to decentralise the implementation of foreign policy by mobilising ideas and viewpoints from government, the private sector, the media, academics and the public. During the last 6 years Thailand has established diplomatic relations with 36 new countries.

To deal effectively with a major power such as the United States during times of economic tension, it is imperative that the government, politicians, and businessmen work together to coordinate foreign policy as a single national effort.

Of all the trading countries in the world today, only Japan has fully achieved this. In turn, this coordinated approach to diplomacy and trade has played a major role in giving Japan its sharp edge in world trade.

Thailand would do well to remember the adage: "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Ambassador Backed

BK250314 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 May 87 p 4

[NATION editorial: "Ambassador Arsa's Views on Copyright Are Justified"]

[Text] The amendment to the Copyright Act of 1978 has reportedly been passed by the Cabinet but there is strong opposition to it both in the House and outside. But the amendment has received strong support from Thai Ambassador Asa Sarasin in Washington who points out that unless the amendment is passed before 1 June there are likely to be serious trade problems between the two countries.

Asa has warned that a failure to effect the amendment will jeopardize Thailand's attempt to seek tariff benefits for 200 additional Thai products entering the United States under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). Not long ago the American Embassy here announced that there was no linkage between the copyright amendment and the GSP but that is clearly a technical matter. There are pressures by manufacturers on the U.S. Congress and many government agencies that will make the linkage inevitable.

There was a mild demonstration by students last week before the American Embassy but we are not quite sure that the students understood all the implications. Trade relations between Thailand and the United States have been smooth and upsetting the current trend could be very unhealthy for Thai commerce. By passing the amendment to the Copyright Act, Thailand stands to lose little but disruption of trade will bring about serious consequences.

According to Arsa the growth of Thai trade with the United States clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of the GSP as a key instrument of export promotion. What seems to bother him further is that Thailand might be declared an unfair trader like Japan and may come under punitive measures. He is worried about Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Law which provides for the U.S. President to order retaliation against unfair trade practices. If that section is invoked Thai exports to the United States could be severely restricted.

There is no question that our man on the spot in Washington has given us the best advice and that he should be listened to. While the amendment should be passed, it is necessary for the government to explain to the politicians and to the people the various implications and what advantages will accrue to Thailand.

THAILAND

DEPUTY PREMIER HAPPY ON RICE PRICES, VIEWS CHAWALIT COMMENT

Bangkok KHAO PHISIT in Thai 25-31 Mar 87 pp 14-18

[Interview with Admiral Sonthi Bunyachai, the deputy prime minister; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] Speaking about the program to raise rice prices, what are rice prices like today around the country?

[Answer] Today, prices are quite good. The producers, or poor farmers, have never seen and never expected to see a season like this. That is, this is the first time in several decades that rice prices are up at the start of the season. Usually, rice prices are low during December, January, and February, which is when the rice is harvested and begins appearing on the market. This is in accord with the theory of supply and demand. As I said, supply and demand arranges things properly. Our hopes have come true. The producers, or owners of the materials that are for sale, want to sell at a high price. But don't forget the buyers, or users. There are always two sides to things. The farmers want to get a high price for their rice. But everyone eats rice. Consumers want low prices. Today, the average price is approximately 3,000 baht. The price of jasmine rice or special rice is a little higher.

[Question] What about 5-percent rice?

[Answer] I am not sure about 5-percent rice. But the price must be around 2,700-2,800 baht. I cannot stipulate the price. I can't do that. I can't stipulate prices for buyers and sellers. That is up to them, not me. Only god can tell you. Ordinary people can't. I have monitored rice prices in Lamphun and Fang, from Lamphun to Chiang Mai. Fang is in Chiang Mai. Prices for the same types of rice differ by as much as 300-500 baht. Think about this. How could we use prices from this or that place? We can't. All we can do is arrange supply and demand for them when the rice goes to market. If there is a large supply and demand is low, prices will fall. I have fixed supply by accepting rice pledges. Thus, there is no supply. At first, there was no demand either. But demand is increasing and people are competing to buy rice.

Today, the rice mills have to beg the farmers to sell them rice. In the past, it was the farmers who had to beg the mills to buy their rice. Thus, rice prices have done a complete turnabout. All of us, sellers and buyers and mills

and farmers are Thai and so we don't want anyone to collapse. We have to coordinate supply and demand. The price of rice today is approximately 2,700-2,800 baht. I think that farmers are happy with this price. When this program got underway, the price was around 1,900-2,100 baht.

[Question] You have been involved with the rice problem this year. Based on your experiences, do you think that this administration will formulate a clear long-term strategic policy to solve the farmers' problems? In the past, people have criticized the government for trying to solve only the immediate problems and not having a long-term plan.

[Answer] That probably won't happen again, because everyone understands the present plan. Even scholars approve of what we have done to arrange supply and demand. What we have done is to curtail supply during the period when supply is normally very great. Everyone accepts this. I am confident. No one has criticized this. Even MR [royal title-FBIS] Khukrit has said that we are doing the right thing to raise rice prices. Thus, for the long term, we have the key for solving the problem. As for the details, we are establishing a long-term program. The problem is providing tools for this program.

[Question] When you say tools, are you referring to the state organizations?

[Answer] I am referring to everything, to all the tools. If everyone can do this, the tools can help bring happiness to society. I am not referring just to the tools. We must bring this about. I am sure that there are people who are critical of me for what has happened. This includes those who have lost profits. They undoubtedly blame me for their losses. But the government has talked about this. I and the prime minister have discussed this. Our main objective is to help the poor farmers. We believe that this is right.

[Question] How confident are you that the present administration can implement a long-term policy?

[Answer] We have built an apparatus. We will use what we have. As I said when I first became involved with the rice problem, our forefathers have bequeathed many good things to us. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture has many good departments. But things are fine at the department level, not the ministry level. We are trying to improve things at the ministry and national levels. We must find a way. We will improve the existing tools. We don't have to get rid of anything. All we need to do is make improvements. I am sure that we will succeed.

[Question] What about the unemployment problem and the problems in the rural areas?

[Answer] As for unemployment, I think that the mass media has exaggerated the problem. For example, college graduates can find a job if they really want one. They don't have to wait for help. I established a labor market in Chonburi. We met with people in order to.... The government is making a great effort to learn the facts. I have made trips to observe things and talk with people. I have talked with graduates who have come to apply. I think that we have to be "tough," as they say in English. That is, we have to be resolute

and patient. People shouldn't expect a handout all the time. They have to fight. Our country hasn't reached that point yet. The reports are exaggerated. You know that. The reports that have appeared are very alarming.

[Question] How stable is the government today?

[Answer] I don't want to say anything about that. We have a party system to deal with the political problems. But I am not a member of a party and so I don't really know what is going on. I know very little and so I don't want to comment on that.

[Question] What is your feeling as a member of the administration?

[Answer] I am indifferent.

[Question] From what you said in a previous interview, I have the feeling that you have little hope in this type of political system. How do you feel now that you have joined the administration?

[Answer] As for my joining the administration, to put it simply, I was drafted.

[Question] How do you feel about what the political parties have done?

[Answer] I think that we still lack an awareness of the common good. That is, we aren't interested in what effect our words and actions have on people in general. We are interested only in what effects these things have on a particular group. This has been one of our values, or ideals, for a long time. Those involved in politics must work for the country as a whole and not just certain people or groups. Today, I think that people are still more interested in benefiting certain people and groups than they are in working for the country as a whole. The effects depend on our intentions.

I think that we must try to make people understand the objectives of each of the political parties and what they are trying to do for people in general.

[Question] Looking at the prime minister, do you think that he is playing a more active role than in the past, which is how most of the mass media feels. As a person who is closer to the prime minister than the mass media, what is your view on the prime minister.

[Answer] I haven't seen anyone who is better at coordinating things. Some want to hold a no-confidence debate on him. Suppose that we grow tired of him and get rid of him. Who would be put in his place? This will affect the public. Once he is gone, who can explain things so clearly. I don't think that there is anyone who could do a better job than Gen Prem. But that does not mean that he is god.

[Question] This indicates that our country lacks leaders, right?

[Answer] No! No! Don't say that. Our country has never lacked anything?

[Question] I am referring to the present time.

[Answer] You can't say that. There may be good people. But they have not been used.

[Question] Perhaps we can say that they haven't been identified.

[Answer] We just haven't found them.

[Question] What about the leaders of the political parties?

[Answer] I'm not sure that they are any better. I think that it will be difficult to improve our society. As I said above, politicians here give too little consideration to their duties to the public. This is because.... As a former soldier, I like to use the word "discipline." We lack discipline. We want to have a parliament and hold meetings in order to promulgate laws. We have increased the number of meetings from one to two. But on the day of the meetings, instead of starting at 0900 hours, the meetings don't get underway until much later. Do you see? It stems from discipline and a sense of duty. If we can instill discipline and a sense of duty in politicians and people in general, things will improve greatly. Today, those who run for office have to invest much money. This is still the case. Thus, elections are like a business. When you make an investment, you expect to make a profit.

[Question] The RTA CINC has talked about staging a revolution and people have supported him. His statements have been construed in a variety of ways. Some people think that he is sharing power with the prime minister. Some are concerned about our political stability. As a person who is in contact with both these people, in your view, what are the intentions of the RTA CINC?

[Answer] Frankly, I try not to speak on behalf of others. Those people each have their own views. I try not to interpret their views. I don't want to know what they are thinking. They are doing their duties. I have my own duties. It isn't my job to speak on their behalf. Thus, I can't answer your question.

[Question] Is there any duplication, because there is frequently talk about staging a revolution and making changes? Or perhaps he has good intentions toward the country.

[Answer] That is how I feel. I think that everyone, and that includes the members of the opposition, has good intentions toward the country. I firmly believe that. It's just that each person has his own way of expressing things. Expression is an art. Everyone expresses his views as he thinks proper.

[Question] Do you think that this administration has the firm support of the military?

[Answer] I don't want to say that they have some sort of relationship. I know both Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and the prime minister. The prime minister is 3 years younger than me. Gen Chawalit is more than 10 years younger than me. I know both of them very well. I think that they both have good intentions. People shouldn't compete but should do what they can to help each other.

[Question] That is not the case at present, is it?

[Answer] I haven't see any indication of that. We talk to each other. I am always very frank. There is only one thing I can't do and that is keep quiet.

[Question] Have the people placed their hopes in the RTA CINC as their future political leader?

[Answer] I don't want to comment on that. Today, we are changing society. Things are changing. Look at the children. There are many young children who are good performers. Go and look. I have a grandchild who is a good performer. I would like people to think about whether this is what our society, or country, wants. It shouldn't be like this. Have we set the right targets? We may want this at some point in time. But the first thing is to develop the country. Today, however, children are like good performers. When they get older, they try to become good speakers. Society puts pressure on people to become good speakers. Do you understand what I am saying? Society puts pressure on people and so some.... I don't know.

[Question] Is there any chance that the turmoil occurring today will lead to what happened in the past?

[Answer] It's up to us. Do we have good intentions toward the public? If we put our own interests first, those who are better at spinning webs may lead us astray. I am concerned about this.

[Question] This involves people abroad, right?

[Answer] This is not a domestic matter. But I was not referring to people abroad. The people doing this are people here. We have to be careful.

[Question] People abroad are still trying to light the fuse, right?

[Answer] Definitely. I have written about this. When parliament was dissolved the last time and a new government was formed, I wrote an article entitled the "Silent Offensive." This silent offensive is still underway.

[Question] What are the signs of this silent offensive?

[Answer] The signs are still not clear. But I think that weakness on our part gives them a good chance. Our selfishness, which is a weakness, poses a danger to the public. This selfishness and our inability to cooperate with each other gives them a chance to take the offensive. There could be another 14 October.

[Question] If it took the form of another 14 October, what do you think would happen?

[Answer] There could be a civil war.

[Question] That is worrisome.

[Answer] I am very worried. Personally, I am very concerned.

[Question] Previously, we were able to recover. But if there is another 14 October, we may not be able to recover.

[answer] That's right. We may not know what is what. Because today.... Take politics, for example. Concerning the things that we talked about a moment ago, we don't know what we are doing. This is of great significance.

[Question] This is the direction in which our society is moving.

[Answer] That's right. Just for minor benefits or out of selfishness.

[Question] Is there a total lack of cooperation?

[Answer] It hasn't reached that point. There is still some cooperation. But selfishness is increasing.

[Question] What you mean is that when society is weak, it can easily be affected by disease, is that right?

[Answer] I think that this is something that we should disseminate so that people are aware of this. We don't have to believe everything. But we should at least have an awareness of each other.

[Question] What if nothing is done to solve this problem?

[Answer] Things will just grow worse.

[Question] You mean that we will continue on the course of another 14 October, is that right?

[Answer] I don't want to use the words "14 October." If you want to, that's fine. Mass activities will increase. There could be a civil war. Those who are prepared and who want to start a civil war will need to give only a small push.

[Question] The main cause is selfishness, is that right?

[Answer] I think that there is too much selfishness.

[Question] Is this because of a failure to allocate national benefits properly?

[Answer] You can blame anything. People are weak and have not struggled to better themselves. They have just waited for someone else to give them things. We have already talked a lot about this. When you write your report, please remember that it was not my intention to criticize or attack anyone.

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CSO: 4207/185

THAILAND

CENTRAL BANK INTERVENTION, INTEREST RATES, INVESTMENT

Bangkok LAI THAI in Thai 23 Apr 87 pp 21, 22

[Unattributed report: "Liquidity Absorber, a New Invention of the National Bank"]

[Text] Monetary liquidity has been high for many months now. The commercial banks can no longer put up with this and so the Thai Banking Association has asked Mr Kamchon Sathirakun, the governor of the national bank, to help solve this problem. The credits-to-savings deposits ratio of the commercial banks is declining. This will definitely affect the year-end profits of the banks. Because besides the money that has been borrowed, the banks can't find sources to which to extend credit. But they have to pay interest every day.

Previously, Mr Kamchon expressed satisfaction about the great liquidity. He felt that this would result in credits flowing to the agricultural sector, which is what the national bank wants. This refers to credits for the rural areas and small customers. This would give customers who have ability but who lack capital a chance to start up businesses.

But actually, the commercial banks are still apprehensive about extending credit, because the present level of defaults on loans is too high. Several banks have had to increase capitalization in order to prevent problems from arising in the future. As a result, excess liquidity has become a chronic problem. However, the national bank still maintains that if the commercial banks have a problem in extending credit, they should reduce loan interest rates.

If the commercial banks lower their interest rates on loans, this will immediately reduce their revenues. Because they will also have to reduce the rates for customers who took loans previously. The commercial banks have set a target for interest rates. But it seems that they don't have any choice. What the commercial banks want is for the national bank to intervene by announcing a reduction in interest rates on both loans and savings deposits. So far, they have failed to get their wish. At a meeting of six leading banks, a resolution was passed calling on banks to lower their top interest rate of 15 percent per year M.O.R. and N.L.A. But no bank has lowered its rates. The banks feel that rates are already low. A second reason is that they cannot lower interest rates on savings deposits, which is what the large banks want.

This year, the large banks have shown little interest in mobilizing savings, except from major customers with whom they have done business for a long time. They are also taking a long-term view of the problem. This could lead to a tight-money situation and force them to have to humor depositors. Thus, the banks are in no rush to increase deposits. Because the more they bring in, the greater their expenditures will be at a time when they cannot lend out all the money that they have now.

This shows that while some people think that the economy is improving, actually, there has been little real investment. Several banks are waiting to see what will happen. And what is important is that today, investment decisions must be made in stages. Depending on the size of the project, it may take a year or more before a decision is made.

After disagreeing with the commercial banks for so long about the need to reduce liquidity, the national bank has finally begun to admit that at present, there really is a problem with excess liquidity. The national bank will now look for ways to help absorb liquidity from the financial system. But this is still a problem. The problem is that officials have very few tools that can be used to solve this problem. This is because the markets are controlled by the commercial banks, and the commercial banks in the country are controlled by foreign interest rates. When interest rates are low, large sums of money flow into the country. The national bank has urged the commercial banks to slow down standing guarantee for customers who borrow from abroad and try to compete on interest rates so that the customers begin borrowing from the banks directly. To do this, interest rates must be at a competitive level. This is another problem facing Thai commercial banks.

Even though the national bank has now agreed in principle to look for ways to absorb the excess liquidity in the system, the problem is that there are few financial instruments to reduce the liquidity. A way must be found to develop the bond repurchase market, which is the market that the commercial banks use for making short-term investments up to 6 months. The national bank will try and intervene by stipulating higher interest rates. It has also formulated a plan to issue national bank bonds that the commercial banks can buy and hold.

The commercial banks say that the excess liquidity now amounts to more than 20 billion baht. Thus, by itself, this measure will not be able to solve this problem. The national bank has begun recalling the money used to help give packing credits to exporters. This depends on the willingness of the banks, because today, the national bank has allocated 32 billion baht to help the exporters, who must borrow the money through the commercial banks. This includes the money to help purchase upland field crops. The national bank has provided help by allowing people to borrow up to 80 percent of the face value of the commercial note. The commercial banks must put up the other 20 percent. But because of the excess liquidity, the national bank is allowing the commercial banks to loan the money to the customers. The banks will be allowed to lower the interest rate from the original 5 percent to as low as 1 percent if the commercial banks put up 80 percent of the money and use only 20 percent of the national bank's money in making loans. This is another way for the commercial banks to reduce their excess liquidity. But the commercial banks

must not increase the interest rate charged the customers above the original rate, which was set at 7 percent. "The national bank should be the final source of capital for releasing money to the markets. Because money released by the national bank has a great effect on the economy," said Mr Chawalit Thanachanan, the deputy governor of the national bank to LAK THAI.

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CSO: 4207/196

THAILAND

OVERSEAS WORKERS' EARNINGS, PROBLEMS FORESEEN

Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai 14-20 Apr 87 pp 30-35

[Article by Yonthong Simongkhon: "Digging for Gold Abroad, a Dismal Future"]

[Excerpts] Here, "digging for gold abroad" refers to going abroad and seeking your fortune working abroad. The higher wages that can be earned abroad are a great attraction even though travel expenses, the fees paid to the job placement agent, and fees for other expenses are very high. Unemployment in Thailand is a serious problem and so many Thai laborers want to go work abroad. Some people borrow money, pawn their property, and mortgage their land in order to obtain the money to go work abroad. Because if they are lucky, after working abroad just a year, they can earn enough to recover their investment and improve their family's standard of living.

Important Laws in Sending Laborers Abroad

Today, the main law used to administer and control the placement of Thai laborers abroad is the 1985 Job Procurement and Job Seeker Control Act, which went into effect on 2 September 1985. This act replaced the act that had been in use since 1968. At that time, the procurement of jobs abroad was not done as a business. Thus, the provisions of the original act were no longer appropriate for sending laborers abroad. There were loopholes that allowed the job placement agents to trick and exploit the laborers in various ways. The penalties for violations were very light. For example, the penalty for procuring jobs without authorization was up to 1 month in jail or a fine of up to 1,000 baht or both. Thus, the job placement agents did not fear the law. Even if they were arrested and prosecuted, they continued carrying on these activities. Many laborers who wanted to find work abroad were exploited by these unscrupulous job placement agents. Thus, the Ministry of Interior made an effort to revise this law. Discussion on this began in 1979, and the new act was promulgated in September 1985. The important provision of this act are as follows:

1. To prevent people from cheating workers who want to go work abroad, the penalties for job placement agents who procure jobs illegally have been increased to match the present situation. For example, in the past, the penalty for procuring jobs without a permit was up to 1 month in jail, a fine of up to 1,000 baht, or both. This has now been increased to 3-10 years in

jail, a fine of 60,000 to 20,000 baht [as published], or both. The penalties for domestic job placement agents who violate the law and cause problems for the people have been increased, too.

2. The procurement of jobs within the country is to be separated from the procurement of jobs abroad. There are to be specific job procurement stipulations and regulations for each country.

3. There must be job procurement guarantees. The agent must be financially secure. For example, foreign job placement agents must have capital of at least 1 million baht, and they must put up at least 500,000 baht in security with the registrar.

4. Suitable stages must be stipulated in sending laborers to work abroad in order to protect the laborers and facilitate sending laborers abroad. Advertising must be supervised to ensure that the job placement agents do not trick or exploit the job applicant.

5. Foreign employers are forbidden from coming and hiring Thai laborers directly. This could cause problems for Thai laborers, particularly women who do household work. This act stipulates that they must hire workers through the Department of Labor or an authorized job placement agency, which will investigate on behalf of the laborers.

6. A fund to help laborers working abroad must be established. In cases in which workers have been abandoned abroad, the fund is to be used to help them return home. It will also be used to provide welfare to laborers who have worked abroad.

7. Workers who intend to go abroad and find jobs on their own must inform the Department of Labor before they leave so that the Department of Labor can conduct an investigation and provide supervision before they leave and so that the department can prevent laborers from being sent abroad illegally.

8. Department of Labor officials will have greater power in investigating and taking action against job placement agents who violate the law and in conducting inspections at the immigration checkpoints. They will have the power to prevent workers from leaving if they do not have evidence showing that they have been offered a job abroad and do not have a job waiting for them.

Thai employers, such as contractors who have operations abroad or businessmen who carry on operations abroad, who want to send Thai laborers abroad must submit a request to the director-general of the Department of Labor asking permission to send laborers abroad. They can send laborers abroad only after permission has been granted.

9. The various fees will be increased as appropriate.

Besides this act, the Department of Labor has issued stipulations to be followed by job placement agents. For example, minimum standards have been set for hiring Thai to work abroad. The conditions must be stated clearly. Minimum

wages, or standard wages, for Thai laborers must be set based on specific skills.

As for the qualifications of laborers who plan to work abroad, on 23 June 1986, the Department of Labor issued an announcement on giving physical examinations to laborers intending to work abroad. It stipulated diseases and listed the medical facilities that have been authorized to examine workers planning to go abroad. The 1986 Department of Labor Regulation on Testing Labor Skills for Employment Abroad stipulates that all laborers must have a skills certificate to show to officials before they will be allowed to go work abroad. The purpose of this is to maintain the standards and skills of Thai laborers working abroad.

1985-Present: The Labor Market in the Middle East Has Begun To Decline

At the end of 1985, the price of oil on world markets began to decline as a result of competition and price cutting within OPEC. As a result, the revenues of countries in the Middle East, whose revenues are based on oil exports, declined greatly. The war between Iraq and Iran and the war in Lebanon made Thai laborers apprehensive. In addition, construction on economic infrastructural projects in these countries had almost been completed. The number of large public-sector projects began to decline. The governments of these countries implemented a policy of developing the skills of their own people in order to replace foreign workers and maintain their balance of payments. For example, Saudi Arabia reduced its construction budget and implemented a policy of repatriating 600,000 foreign workers during the period 1986-1991.

In 1985, earnings remitted by Thai laborers working in the Middle East began declining even though more laborers were sent abroad to work. This is because the countries employing Thai laborers have begun paying lower wages. And they have become more selective. Many countries have become stricter about allowing people to send foreign currency out of the country. They have implemented very complicated regulations on this.

Problems of Thai Laborers Abroad

Problems have arisen frequently in sending Thai laborers abroad. These can be summarized as follows:

Nature of problem:

1. There have been problems concerning wages. For example, employers have reduced the wages, withheld the wages for long periods, failed to pay the full amount, or they have not paid the wages in accord with the stipulations.
2. Employers have changed the employment contract or failed to act in accord with the contract. Some employers have treated the workers improperly. Employers have exploited workers and provided poor benefits, which has caused problems for the workers and reduced their work morale. This has led to protests and labor disputes.

3. Workers have been abandoned (no job when they arrive or the company has ceased operations) because of the financial problems encountered by the employers.

4. On arriving in the foreign country, some laborers have not been met by their employers or been able to contact their employers. Some employers have intentionally failed to go meet them.

5. Some laborers have run away from their employers and gone to live near the office, or they have gone to another camp.

6. Some laborers have violated the local laws and customs.

7. Employees engaged in household and agricultural work have not received legal protection.

8. Female workers have been treated improperly by their employers.

9. There have been problems in remitting money home.

Causes of the problems:

1. Problems caused by employment agents:

(1) Agents have sent workers abroad without having the Department of Labor review the employment contracts. The conditions of the contracts have been inappropriate and put the employees at a disadvantage.

(2) Agents have charged excessively high service charges that have been out of line with the work and wages.

(3) The agents have never gotten to know the employers or checked their economic position.

(4) Workers have been sent aboard even though there is no job for them either because the job promised has been eliminated or the project has failed. In some cases, the employer has asked the agent to stop sending workers, but the agents have continued sending workers so that they can collect service charges.

(5) Agents have sent workers whose qualifications do not match those desired by the employers.

(6) Agents have forged workers' documents and travel documents.

(7) Agents have competed among themselves by cutting prices. They have proposed lowering wages and benefits and reduced the employment conditions in bidding for jobs from employers. This has been bad for Thai workers. Also, agents have concealed the truth about wages and benefits from the workers. The wages and benefits agreed on with the workers have been higher than those

agreed on with the employers. Thus, when the workers have gone to work abroad, they have become discouraged and lost their desire to work, because their wages don't cover their expenses.

2. Problems caused by employers:

(1) Some employers have experienced financial problems and, as a result, they have been unable to pay wages for long periods. On occasion, workers have not been paid for as long as a year. This has created problems for the workers and made it impossible for them to continue working. Some employers who have experienced financial problems have fled, abandoning the workers.

(2) Employers have failed to abide by the contracts, or they have changed the contracts. They have lowered the wage and failed to pay overtime or provide benefits as stipulated in the employment contract.

(3) Employers have cheated workers. When workers have fulfilled the terms of the contract, employers have refused to send them home or pay their travel expenses home.

(4) The amount of work and work periods stipulated by the employers have not been in accord with the pay scale, or the work has been more difficult than the workers originally understood. Employers have changed the positions. For example, workers who have signed contracts to work as drivers have been assigned positions as laborers.

(5) Employers have forced workers to pay the taxes even though they are responsible for paying the taxes to the government. This has reduced the incomes of the workers. For example, in Singapore, the law stipulates that employers must pay the government \$7 [Singaporean dollars] per day or \$200 [Singaporean dollars] per month for every foreign worker brought in to work in Singapore. Some employers have failed to pay this tax. When Singaporean officials have suspended their work permits, the workers have had to leave the country even though their work contract had not expired.

(6) Some of the work sites have been located in remote areas without medical facilities or convenient communications. Employers have given little attention to the workers, or they have not believed that the workers are really sick. This has occurred because of the difficulties in communicating with each other in the language used.

(7) The lodging provided has been bad. Workers have had to live in cramped and crowded conditions, and there have not been enough bathrooms. The food has been bad. Usually, such conditions have been caused by employers who are from the locality.

(8) At some worksites, workers from several different countries have worked together. Thus, the orders or assignments have depended on the nationality of the foremen. Some foreign foremen have been biased in assigning tasks and taken the side of fellow countrymen. This has put Thai workers at a disadvantage.

(9) Employers acting as employment agents have sold or transferred workers to other employers in violation of the contracts signed in Thailand.

3. Problems caused by workers:

(1) Workers have gone abroad posing as tourists and obtained jobs without work permits. Some have done this intentionally; others have been tricked. When they are caught, they are prosecuted in accord with the laws of that country. This happens often with Thai workers who have gone to Malaysia and Singapore to work. This is because these two countries are located near Thailand and communications are convenient. In particular, Thai workers frequently enter Malaysia to work illegally.

(2) Workers have intentionally violated the law. For example, they have committed robberies, committed sexual offenses, produced and sold liquor, created disturbances, gambled, engaged in corruption, and forged work documents.

(3) Some workers have gone abroad to work as if trying their luck. For example, skilled workers have applied for jobs not requiring any skills in order to find a job quicker and reduce the job placement service fee. When they arrive in the foreign country, they flee their employer and look for a new job.

(4) Some workers have signed contracts accepting low wages, because they expected to earn overtime as promised by the job placement agent. But after arriving abroad, they have discovered that there is no overtime. Thus, their incomes have been low. They have become discouraged and lost their desire to work, because their wages don't cover expenses. Some have fled their employers in order to look for a new job. Or they have intentionally gotten into trouble in order to be sent back home.

(5) Some laborers have not had the skills desired by the employers.

(6) Workers have not understood the customs of the host country. As a result, they have committed violations through negligence or unwittingly.

(7) Some workers have gone to work abroad with ulterior motives, such as to gamble or work as prostitutes.

(8) Some female workers have not been able to adjust to their new environment. The customs, traditions, and religious practices do not allow them to associate with outsiders. Also, they have language problems and have difficulty communicating with their employers. And they have problems with the food. This has put pressure on them and led to a decline in their physical and mental health.

4. Problems in remitting money home:

Thai workers remit money home in two ways:

(1) The employers remit the money directly. When this is done, there are usually few problems, because the employers, such as a European, American, and Korean employers, transfer the money for the workers from the main office in the host country directly to Thailand.

(2) The workers remit the money themselves. There are few problems in the case of Saudi Arabia and certain other countries. However, Thai workers in Libya and Iraq have encountered problems. These two countries permit workers to remit only 50-70 percent of their wages. And the process involved in remitting money is very complex. In particular, Iraq, which is at war, is very strict about remitting money. Thai workers who have signed work contracts directly with Iraqi officials have experienced rather serious problems in remitting wages back to Thailand. In some cases, there have been delays of more than 5 months. Workers of all nationalities who have signed work contracts directly with Iraqi officials have experienced such problems.

The Government's Policy on Sending Workers Abroad To Work Based on the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan (1987-1991)

The government realized the importance of sending Thai workers abroad to work and so it included this in the Fifth National Economic and Social Development Plan (1982-1985). This policy has achieved good results, and many workers have been sent abroad to work. They have remitted billions of baht to Thailand each year. In the Sixth Development Plan, this has been enlarged on in accord with the present situation. The details are as follows:

1. The plan to develop foreign labor markets:

In the past, it was mainly the private sector that developed and expanded the foreign labor markets. Even though achievements were scored in expanding these labor markets, because of the lack of support from the public sector, these labor markets could not be expanded fully. The Department of Labor has seen the need to expand the role of the state in working with the private sector to promote and develop foreign labor markets. The objective is to find new markets and increase Thailand's share of the labor markets that now employ Thai workers. Various programs will be implemented. These include establishing information and labor market development centers, preparing documents and disseminating them to foreign employers, coordinating things with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in disseminating data on employing Thai laborers, assigning officials to embassies in countries that employ large numbers of Thai workers, and having senior Thai officials make visits in order to create good relations with the countries that employ large numbers of Thai workers.

2. Development of the skills and qualifications of workers:

Today, the labor market has changed greatly. In the past period, the labor markets have had a need for certain types of laborers. Thus, the Department of Labor feels that programs should be implemented to develop labor skills based on the needs of foreign labor markets. This will be done by improving the Labor Department's system of developing workers' skills. For example, the training activities of the seven labor skills development institutions will be improved and worker development centers will be established in order to improve the work and language skills of the workers and increase their knowledge and understanding. We will then have workers who are suited to the labor markets abroad. Besides this, things will be coordinated with the units concerned, such as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Industry, in order to train workers and give them the skills needed by foreign labor markets.

3. The public relations program to prevent workers from being tricked:

Action will continue to be taken in accord with the public relations program to prevent workers from being tricked. This will continue from the Fifth Development Plan. The program will be improved and expanded. The mass media of both the public and private sectors will be used to provide the people with correct data and information.

4. The program to help workers who have returned from abroad:

Construction work in the Middle East is declining, and labor needs are shifting, with more attention now being put on hiring people for the production, maintenance, and service sectors. Fewer construction workers are being hired. As a result, some Thai laborers have had to return to Thailand. Thus, the Department of Labor feels that it is essential to help these laborers. Three things will be done to help these people:

(1) A center will be established to register workers who have returned from abroad. If a worker is interested in going abroad again, the Department of Labor will consider sending him or contact those in the private sector who may need this type of worker.

(2) As for those who are not interested in working abroad again, an effort will be made to find suitable jobs for them in Thailand. This will be part of the Domestic Labor Information Center, which is now operated by the Employment Service Division, Department of Labor.

(3) In the case of those who want to earn their living independently, things will be coordinated with the private sector in considering granting them credits for use in starting up a business. Things will also be coordinated with other units, such as the Department of Industrial Promotion and the Ministry of Education, to provide vocational training or give advice in operating the business.

Possibilities for Sending Thai Workers Abroad in the Future

As mentioned above, obstacles are being encountered in sending Thai workers to work in the Middle East. Thus, it is urgent to find new labor markets. As for those countries that already employ Thai workers, steps should be taken to increase Thailand's share of the labor market. This should be done by paying more attention to the needs of the market.

The future still looks quite bright for sending Thai workers to other Asian countries, particularly Malaysia and Brunei. Malaysia wants to bring in workers to grow oil palms. As for Brunei, according to its Fifth National Economic and Social Development Plan (1986-1990), it needs to bring in laborers to work on many large-scale construction projects. Asian workers have the advantage over people from other countries in getting jobs in these two countries because of their similar customs and traditions. Also, Brunei requires Asians to put up a smaller guarantee than workers from other countries. Asian workers are diligent and honest and so they are in great demand by employers. In 1986, 1,271 and 3,569 workers went to work in Malaysia and Brunei respectively.

As for sending Thai workers to Singapore, today, more and more obstacles are appearing. Singapore's policy is to promote production that uses automated equipment and high technology. Its policy is to move all industrial factories that use unskilled and semiskilled workers out of the country by 1991. Singapore considers workers from Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia to be unskilled workers who have little education. However, during the next 3-4 years, Singapore's National Housing Authority plans to build flats. This will require a large number of semiskilled and unskilled workers.

Another market for Thai workers that should be watched closely is Hong Kong, which wants large number of Thai workers for jobs in the service sector, such as domestic work and child-care jobs. If there is good coordination between the job placement agents and the Department of Labor and if the positions and intentions of the employers are checked carefully in order to prevent problems from arising, the future of Thai workers in Hong Kong looks very bright.

Table 1: Population and Area of Selected Middle Eastern Countries

Country	Area (square km)	Population (thousands of people)	Literacy (percent)	Manpower (thousands of people)	Work Force as a percentage of the population
Saudia Arabia	2,149,690	4,592.5	33	1,026.5	22.4
Libya	1,759,540	2,223.7	39	449.2	20.2
Oman	300,000	550.0	20	137.0	24.9
Kuwait	17,818	472.1	55	91.8	19.5
Bahrain	662	214.0	47	45.8	21.4
Qatar	11,437	67.9	33	12.5	18.4

Table 2: Number of Thai Workers Working Abroad With Permits From the Department of Labor Unit: People

Country	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Saudia Arabia			16	327	2,855	8,502	7,645	9,948	9,420
Kuwait						2,167	188	958	608
Libya								6,497	10,020
Iraq								959	1,823
Bahrain			968	960	776		75	306	380
Other					239	3,537	427	2,022	1,597
Total Middle East			984	1,287	3,870	14,215	8,335	20,690	23,848
United States			--						--
Singapore						250	680	191	606
Malaysia			--						--
Brunei									261
England	293								
Other							134		15
Grand total	293		984	1,287	3,870	14,465	9,129	20,881	24,730

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Saudia Arabia	88,178	51,262	47,587	42,664	50,728
Kuwait	577	2,208	2,514	1,200	4,485
Libya	9,034	5,029	7,142	7,401	7,667
Iraq	3,140	1,472	5,900	6,101	6,699
Bahrain	10	198	965	928	1,029
Other	4,247	3,351	3,360	3,407	4,529
Total Middle E.	105,186	63,520	67,468	61,701	75,137
United States			448	3	540
Singapore	1,901	1,385	2,527	3,387	3,871
Malaysia	49	1,943	1,622	1,861	1,271
Brunei	960	136	367	2,160	3,569
England				2	3
Other	31	14	81	571	1,271
Grand Total	108,127	66,998	72,513	69,685	85,662

Table 3: Estimated Number of Thai Workers Abroad Unit: People

Country	1984	1985	1986
Saudia Arabia	200,000	160,000	160,000
Libya	30,000	30,000	30,000
Iraq	25,000	25,000	28,000
Kuwait	8,000	8,000	8,000
Bahrain	2,000	5,000	5,000
Singapore	20,000	30,000	30,000
Malaysia	2,000	25,000	25,000
Brunei	2,500	3,000	5,000
Other	30,150	19,000	23,300
Total	319,650	305,000	314,300

Table 4: Comparison of Remittances by Thai Workers With Value of Exports
Unit: millions of baht

Year	Value of Exports	Remittances	Percentage of Value of Exports
1981	151,218	10,482	6.9
1982	159,728	14,222	8.9
1983	146,472	19,315	13.2
1984	175,237	21,118	12.1
1985	193,366	23,796	12.3
1986	229,340	21,223	9.3

Source: Bank of Thailand

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THAILAND

CHIANG MAI MILITARY DISTRICT COMMANDER PROFILED

Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 27 Apr 87 p 5

[DAILY NEWS Square column by Nanthana: "Maj Gen Thira Lekwichian, a CRMA Class 4 Member Who Now Commands the Chiang Mai Military District"]

[Excerpts] Maj Gen Thira Lekwichian, the former deputy commander of the 3d Combat Support Headquarters, was appointed commander of the Chiang Mai Military District on 23 March 1987. DAILY NEWS Square would like to profile the interesting career of this man.

He was born on 10 November 1931 in Wat Pradu Subdistrict, Amphawa District, Samut Songkhram Province. His nickname is Lek. His parents are Mr Charoen and Mrs Plik Lekwichian. He attended the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy [CRMA] as a member of Class 4. He graduated from the academy in 1957 and was assigned to an artillery unit.

He took the beginning and advanced flight training courses in 1959. He completed the course for company commanders in 1961 and the course for artillery battalion commanders in 1964. He graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College in 1966. He completed the flight instructors course in 1968. In 1969 he took a helicopter pilot course in the United States. In 1975 he completed the officer peacekeeping course as a member of Class 4. He graduated from the Army War College as a member of Class 24 in 1979.

He was commissioned a sublieutenant in 1957, the same time as acting Lt Gen Siri Thiwapan, the present commander of the 3d Army Region. He was promoted to colonel in 1974 and to special colonel in 1979. He was promoted to acting major general on 23 March 1987. As for important positions, he served as the commander of the 4th Artillery Regiment in Phitsanulok Province, the deputy commander of the Chiang Mai Military District, and the deputy commander of the 3d Combat Support Headquarters in Phitsanulok Province. Now he has been appointed commander of the Chiang Mai Military District.

He is married to Kuson Lekwichian. They have one son and four daughters. In the course of his military career, he has served along the border in several areas in the north. He is a very calm and thoughtful person who is very strict about discipline. He likes to develop his unit and help the people. He treats his subordinates with compassion and so all of his subordinates have great respect and admiration for him.

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THAILAND

QUESTIONS ON PARAMILITARY ANTI-KHUKRIT DEMONSTRATION

Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai 8-14 Apr 87 p 3

[Unattributed report: "An Ideological Disaster"]

[Text] It was not wrong for the 300 thahan phran irregulars from the Pakthongchai Camp to disagree with the views of MR [royal title--FBIS] Khukrit Pramot, who criticized the political situation recently. It is good that they voiced their feelings about their poverty and mentioned the sacrifices that they have made to defend the country. But there are several things that we would like to discuss concerning how they expressed those feelings.

1. Even though the 300 thahan phran irregulars from the Pakthongchai Camp who came to Bangkok and surrounded the home of MR Khukrit on Suan Plu Lane were unarmed, did they come "on orders" from their superiors or did they come on their own?
2. Did their commander give them permission to assemble here? If he didn't, was this a violation of military discipline?
3. Didn't their headquarters receive word of this beforehand in view of the fact that they assembled in order to stage a protest and threaten a civilian such as MR Khukrit Pramot, who is a former prime minister?
4. If their commander did not know anything about this, wasn't he remiss in controlling his subordinates?
5. If the commander knew about this beforehand and allowed them to do this, isn't he guilty of violating the law? Because the primary responsibility of the thahan phran irregulars is to suppress outside enemies. It is not a mass unit that can be used to stage demonstrations.
6. While this was taking place, why didn't senior military officers come and take control of the situation? Only police officials arrived and tried to restore calm. In particular, with today's communication system, they should have learned about this quickly and taken action to reduce the seriousness of the situation.

7. If senior military commanders or thahan phran irregular commanders wanted to stage this show of force for their own reasons, will this show of force have positive or negative results? Will this lead to peace or more fighting?

8. How necessary was it to respond to MR Khukrit's criticisms with violence? The RTA CINC has said that he wants to see a "constructive atmosphere" in Thailand. Was the atmosphere on 5 April a "constructive atmosphere?"

9. Soldiers and civilians are both entitled to voice criticisms. Military officials have harshly criticized the behavior of politicians and civilians on many occasions. The politicians and civilians have responded in kind. But why were differences in political views allowed to lead to a mass confrontation between the two factions?

10. We sympathize with the thahan phran irregulars and realize that their lives are very difficult. We are aware of the sacrifices that they have made. But the demonstration by these 300 thahan phran irregulars leads us to believe that people have secretly placed their patriotism and spirit of sacrifice at the disposal of "individuals" rather than having their patriotism and spirit of sacrifice serve "nation, religion, and monarchy."

We view this action as an "ideological disaster." It is not our intention to criticize these 300 thahan phran irregulars. We believe that they acted with pure intentions. But we would like to raise a few questions about their commanders. Today, there is still fierce fighting going on at Chong Obok in Ubon Ratchathani Province, isn't that right? Every thahan phran irregular battalion in the 2d Army Region has been sent to the front there along with thahan phran irregular forces from the Pakthongchai Camp. At a time when the battle still rages there, why did their commanders allow these 300 thahan phran irregulars to go stage such a demonstration? It seems that they wanted to create an incident.

This ideological disaster indicates that from now on, there must not be any criticism, research, or expression of views that conflicts with the views of the military leaders. What this means is that we are moving away from democracy and from a widespread expression of views. We are destroying the constructive atmosphere. We have completely destroyed the image of peace.

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THAILAND

BRIEFS

POSSIBLE PRINCESS ARMY PROMOTION--People have asked to what rank Princess Surinthon will be promoted next time. The answer is that she will probably be promoted from colonel to special colonel, which will mean a raise in pay and a change in her collar insignia to crossed staffs. She is about due for a promotion. At the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy [CRMA], she is a Level 1 professor. In terms of command, she is number six. First is Maj Gen Niyom Sansanakhom, the commandant of CRMA. Second is Special Col Phet Wattanaphuti, the deputy commandant. Third is Special Colonel Winit Thetwisan, the chief of staff of CRMA. As for the education chain of command, which is separate from the command chain, Maj Gen Udom Phopphi is the director of education. Special Col Choetchai Ditsanin is the deputy director. After Special Col Choetchai come the professors. Princess Surinthon is the senior professor and so she is number six overall. However, within the education chain, she is number three. [Text] [Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 23 Apr 87 p 11] 11943

CSO: 4207/196

HANOI INVESTS IN NEW ECONOMIC ZONES

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Feb 87 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Hanoi Focuses Investments in New Economic Zones"]

[Text] To assist the people in the new economic zones in stabilizing their lives and organizing production, the Hanoi New Economic Zones Committee has coordinated with various related sectors to use its capital construction fund effectively. Depending on the characteristics of each zone, it has determined a rational proportion of the investment that will go there. In looking at the new economic zones in general (both those inside the municipality and those outside of Da Hoai), it has focused the investments on irrigation works, communication works, and public welfare works such as clinics and schools, and has helped the people build homes.

Last year, the New Economic Zones Committee utilized over 2.4 million dong to complete the irrigation works in the districts of Ba Vi and Soc Son and the municipality of Son Tay in order to guarantee enough water to irrigate 543 hectares of double-cropping rice. In the new economic and newly populated zones of Son Tay, Le Linh, Soc Son, and Ba Vi, it has built five schools and two medical clinics, with a total investment of over 2,534,000 dong.

The families going to new economic zones are for the most part having difficulty with capital outlays; furthermore, in these new territories there are not enough construction materials. In order to create favorable conditions for the people to establish themselves quickly, many districts and villages have concentrated their strength (capital, materials, and transportation means) on helping the families build their homes. The Hanoi New Economic Zones Committee has taken care to provide them with roofing materials and other necessary construction materials. The total amount of investments put in to help the people build their homes came to 3,292,000 dong, of which over 2.5 million dong went to the Da Hoai region (Lam Dong).

Hanoi has also started to pay attention to investing in the area first and drawing up the economic and technical arguments for establishing new economic zones. The amount of capital devoted to this comes to over 645,000 dong.

Thanks to this focusing of investments, in the last year Hanoi has moved over 6,400 persons (of which there are 3,240 laborers) into the new economic zones.

The district with the most vigorous movement is Dong Anh, which in 1986 has motivated 385 families consisting of 1,529 persons to go to the new economic zones to start their new lives there. Thanh Tri is the weakest district in this mass motivation movement for in 1 year it managed to motivate only 6 families, with a total of 18 persons, to go to the new economic zones.

On the new economic zones the people have organized production effectively, and the total cultivated acreage has reached almost 740 hectares devoted to rice and secondary food crops as well as to industrial crops such as peanuts, tea, and tobacco. They have also planted 180 hectares of forest land and developed animal husbandry (cattle, hogs, and thousands of domestic fowl.)

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CSO: 4209/349

INCREASE IN COAL PRODUCTION REPORTED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Feb 87 p 1

[Article: "Coal Production and Stripping of Earth and Rocks From the Coal Have Increased in First Month of Year as Compared to Last Year"]

[Text] Implementing the plan for January 1987, the various units in the coal sector have undertaken many efforts to maintain the rate of production. Despite the fact that January is a month related to the traditional Vietnamese New Year, thanks to the renovation in the contract system where the whole operation is contracted to the production cells and brigades, the whole sector has managed to exploit 400,000 tons of clean coal, representing an increase of 11 percent as compared with the same period last year. Many individual mines have accomplished more than 30 percent over the planned level for the first quarter. The Uong Bi Coal Company reached 34.9 percent, and Coal Company III reached 41.9 percent of the planned level for the first quarter. Thanks to a rational reorganization of labor, and thanks to ready preparations in the supply of coal, even during the Tet holidays, at the three ports of Cua Ong, Hon Gai, and Mao Khe, the planned level for the month has been overfulfilled by 13.5 percent.

Most outstanding is the fact that during the first month of the year, the stripping of dirt and rocks from the coal in the open mines reached 2,038,000 cubic meters, which is higher than the average for the preceding months. The Coc No 6 mine, which is one of the largest and which was the first banner carrier of the coal sector during 1986, passed the planned level by 28 percent as far as the stripping of the coal is concerned, thus reaching 42.6 percent of the first quarter plan. The Cao Son mine brought the stripping rate to an average of 12,000 cubic meters per day, representing an increase of 4,000 cubic meters as compared to previous months.

During January the coal sector also did a good job of periodically repairing various kinds of essential transport machinery and reinforcing the vanning facilities and pickup points; raised its rail transport capacity, thus reducing to the minimum the need for coal-carrying trucks; and actively prepared the material and technical conditions and organized the living conditions of the workers and cadres so as to continue boosting production, struggling to reach 25 percent of the planned level for the whole year as far as coal exploitation and dirt stripping are concerned.

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IMPROVING QUALITY, EFFICIENCY OF STATE FARMS URGED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Feb 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Raise the Quality and Production As Well As Business Efficiency of the State Farms"]

[Text] The state farms are the basic production and business units of the state in agriculture; they play an important role in socialist agriculture. All the provinces and cities in the whole country have their state farms, which account for the management of over 1 million hectares of land. They have created or are in the process of creating intensive and/or concentrated specialized-cultivation areas on a large scale to produce rice, secondary crops, and industrial crops and to carry out animal husbandry (of large animals) and to provide hundreds of thousands of tons of coffee, rubber, tea, and fruit for export and raw material products for the processing industry and for consumer use inside the country.

In the past few years, the state farms have initially started to reorganize production and to renovate their economic management, enlarged their combined operations and combined business formats, and grown in stature to become their own masters and effectively exploit their land, labor, and existing material and technical bases better. Many farms have formed networks consisting of themselves and those enterprises that specialize in the production of seeds and animal breeds to provide them to the localities, thus contributing to making our agricultural production progress step by step.

Nonetheless, after a long time being run by a bureaucratic and overreaching machine there remain quite a few state farms that are in the red, where labor capacity is low, where neither production nor business is effective, where the total production volume has low economic value, and where the lives of the cadres and of the workers have many difficulties. The potential in labor, land, and material and technical bases in many state farms has not yet been fully utilized and vigorously promoted. Many state farms still rely on investment capital from above or on support and assistance from outside. The leadership component of many state farms has not yet been consolidated or perfected, it has not yet shown itself to be united, and it has not undergone vigorous transformations in economic thought and in renovating the management mechanism. On the other hand, the autonomy in production and administration of many state farms has not yet been determined by the various sectors and echelons as these have not yet guided them in implementing that role, thus causing quite a bit of confusion in the production and business of many a state farm.

In implementing the resolution of the Sixth National Party Congress, the function of the state farms must be consolidated and their implementation promoted more and more vigorously in relation to the agricultural production of the whole country. Labor in the state farms must reach a high efficiency. The state farms' land and their material and technical bases must be put to use in the best possible way. The productivity of plants and animals grown and raised by the state farms must reach high levels. By showing an example and realizing the combination between the state farm, the collective, and the family, the state farms will more and more play their great promotion role in the agricultural production of the whole society.

In the organization of production, each state farm has its own specialized production tasks but this specialization has to be coupled with an integrated business model so as to exploit all land, labor, and equipment at its disposal. One must closely link agricultural production with forestry, fishing, and the processing industries; one must closely link cultivation with animal husbandry and the development of new professions, thus creating many variegated commodities and a rich array of products. The state farms must enlarge their cooperation, and they must combine their operations and businesses among themselves as well as between agriculture and the processing industries and between the basic production units and the scientific and technological organs so as to absorb technological progress into production quickly, and insure that production develops in accordance with the state's blueprints and plans, promote the strengths of each sector, region, and locality, while at the same time closely integrating the state farms' economy with that of the collectives and of individual families in a situation where the state-run economy plays the major role.

The management of the state farms must be rectified in accordance with the (draft) resolution of the Political Bureau regarding the guarantee of autonomous production and administration of the various basic economic units, regarding the elimination of bureaucratism and overreaching power, and regarding the ceaseless increase in the quality and production as well as business of the state farms on the basis of recalculated economic and technical standards.

The production and business efficiency of each state farm and its effect on each and every production area and region are the very yardsticks of the consolidation movement of the state farms.

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FOOD, GRAIN PRODUCTION DISCUSSED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Feb 87 p 1

[Article: "State Farms Are Creating Sources of Agricultural Products for Export and Consumption"]

[Text] Right from the first month of the first quarter of 1987 state farms in the whole country have concentrated on boosting production and business in the direction of intensive and specialized cultivation in combination with integrated business so as to have many agricultural products and commodities and to contribute to realizing the three great economic programs. The Song Hau (Hau Giang Province), Tan Lap (Tien Giang Province), Nuoc Trong (Tay Ninh), and To Hieu (Son La) State Farms, the coffee-producing state farms belonging to the Federation of Vietnamese Coffee Enterprises, and the state farms in Ho Chi Minh City have overcome their difficulties and taken initial steps to transform their overreaching administrative machines into a system where there is business accountability, thus completing the tasks assigned by the state and guaranteeing the turning over of profits and budget capital to the state.

Besides the main industrial crops like coffee, rubber, tea, and sugarcane, which have been the object of intensive and continuous cultivation right from the start, thus guaranteeing high productivity and a high production volume, the state farms have also implemented the formula of combined agricultural and forestry production in order to protect their production and to protect the ecology and our forestry resources as well as to have more forests. Many state farms have planted from 50 to a few hundred hectares of forestland. Many forested hills and lands belonging to the Ba Vi, Yen Son, Thong Nhat, Ha Trung, Sao Vang, Pham Van Hai, Pham Van Coi, and Tan Lap State Farms have yielded timber and firewood to serve production and daily needs. The state farms have also paid attention to the combined agricultural and forestry formulas so as to exploit the various water surfaces such as lakes and dams in order to create food products coming from such sources. A number of state farms have collected from 40 to a few hundred tons of fish and shrimp a year meant for export and consumption: this is the case of the Song Hau, Dong Hai, and Thanh To State Farms.

A number of state farms have combined their operations and made business alliances with the localities and with the various cooperatives to exploit the land, labor, and professional potential of their own units in order to create more agricultural commodity products with a high economic value. The Song Hau

and Hau Giang State Farms have closely combined their work with their localities to put to use the abundant labor sources available in the locality to produce rice and develop animal husbandry. The Trinh Mon and Thach Ngoc State Farms have helped their localities improve their breeds of hogs. The Song Boi, Ha Trung, Chien Dan, and 7 May State Farms have combined their work with their respective localities to expand the acreage devoted to apricots, tea, coffee, peanuts, sugarcane, fruit trees, and timber; they have also combined their operations for the purpose of processing sugar, tobacco, thatch, and animal feed, thus reaching a high economic value.

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CULTURAL POLICY FOR MINORITIES REVIEWED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Feb 87 pp 3, 4

[Article by Nong Quoc Chan, vice minister of culture: "We Need To Concretize the Cultural Policy Towards the Minority Nationalities"]

[Text] The cultural policy of our party and state towards the various nationalities, which has been implemented in years past, has brought about and is yielding achievements in which we can take great pride. Despite the uneven environment and conditions for development among the various nationalities, we have seen many new models, new ways of life, and new types of man emerge, which give evidence of the bonds of solidarity that link our nationalities and prove their equality and the mutual assistance that is given by one nationality to another in our country.

Nonetheless, these new models, these new ways of life, and these new types of man from among the 53 minority nationalities have not yet been found to be evenly spread or disseminated; they have proven to be without real substance. The socioeconomic situation in the areas of the nationalities in general is still weak as compared with the midland areas or with the delta regions despite the fact that the potentialities of the mountain areas have been estimated to be quite substantial.

The Political Report of the Sixth National Party Congress clearly states: "The party must continue to promote the traditions of solidarity and persistent and courageous revolutionary struggle of the minority nationalities in our country so as to consolidate and raise one more step the solidarity bloc among the various nationalities; it must aim at the building of prosperous and strong mountain areas and successfully implement the revolutionary objectives and tasks proposed by the Congress. We must increase the education of our nationality policy among our cadres and party members in the army and among our compatriots in the whole country, raise their awareness, and unmask and defeat enemy plots and actions meant to divide our nationalities. We must have concrete and long-range plans to increase, train, and place in service the ranks of minority nationality cadres in the mountain and border areas."

To implement successfully the above objectives and tasks, the party and state must do many things on an urgent basis in each and every region and towards each and every nationality.

The nationality policy should not simply be a number of principles, it must be concretized, proactive, and persistent in order to obtain realistic effects.

In concretizing the cadre policy and the cultural policy towards the various nationalities, we must first of all pay special attention to the children of the smallest nationalities in the mountain areas and border regions. This attention must be written into the documents of various party organizations and government levels, specifically written into concrete norms in the state plans from the district level up: this is indispensable. We must have norms regarding the number of schools and the number of teachers and students belonging to the various nationalities in each village and each canton. These norms must be written into the state plans for the various responsible organs to know the directions guiding the selection of students and the short-term and long-term training of the nationality elements so that they may become literate and educated people with an ideal and be fully capable of shouldering such work as the building of the party and the state management of economics, social affairs, security, national defense, education, science, medical care, gymnastics and athletics, culture, literature, and the arts.

The experience of past years has taught us that we must responsibly pick the right persons for the right professions. But even more importantly, after they graduate, students must be given the appropriate jobs to do, where they will have the chance to put to use their best capabilities: this is the most intimate requirement of each trained person. At the present time, as our society is encountering many difficulties in the economy negativism is found in many forms, creating many obstacles for those who seek employment, even though they may have diplomas and be truly skilled, but who for some reason get rejected by one organ after another. When encountering such situations, the applicants for a minority nationality background can have only one choice, and that is to go "home" unless for some reason they receive the legitimate help of responsible acquaintances who would be kind enough to do so. Only when we have concrete policies endorsed by the party and the state relating to the placement, training, and utilization of cadres, and the formation of new and educated cadres and of new ranks of technical workers as well as of new ranks of people working in culture, literature, and the arts, can the various nationalities truly exercise their right of mastery. Because of the uneven level of development obtained among the various nationalities, we cannot in the near future have right away writers, poets, musicians, and artists in all the 53 minority nationalities of Vietnam.

But in the socialist regime of our country, should they receive the special attention of the party and the state, specifically of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and Vocational Middle Schools, the Ministry of Culture, and the Writers Union, the Theatrical Artists Association, the Musicians Association, the Plastic Artists Association, the Film Association, and the Photographers Association, etc., the policies of our party and state will be effectively implemented in the case of the minority nationalities. In past years the production outcomes of the three cultural and artistic middle schools established in Viet Bac, Tay Bac, and Tay Nguyen have attracted and are in the process of attracting a number of children from the minority nationalities who come to learn and complement their talent; and a number of them have become cadres or performers working in a number of localities. If one includes a number

of students who graduated from various schools in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, from the Cultural University where there is a writing school named after Nguyen Du, the Stage and Film College, the Dance School, and the Arts University, the ranks of those doing cultural and artistic work in the mountain areas are being ceaselessly enlarged. But with a public audience that goes for cultural, literature, and artistic activities in all 53 nationalities located in the entire country, with over 20 provinces populated with a large number of minority nationalities in 40 town or city units, many district-level organs, worksites, agricultural farms, forestry stations, and border posts are in need of all sorts of cadres capable of guiding cultural and artistic activities just as they are in great need of many performing artists such as dancers, actors, acrobats, and magicians as well as creative artists. In actuality, many ethnic Vietnamese cadres and literature and art workers have played and are playing a great role in guiding, organizing, and helping the compatriots from the various minority nationalities to build their cultural lives at the basic unit level. But in each basic unit, each region, and each nationality, it is indispensable to have people from that nationality--people with conviction and people of talent who have been trained fundamentally in the ideals of patriotism and in the love of socialism--who have been trained academically in esthetic knowledge, in literature and the arts in general, and especially in the cultural and artistic values of their own nationalities.

Our deepest aspiration, the aspiration of those engaged in cultural, literary, and artistic work among the various minority nationalities, is to get the permission of the party and the state to establish a Vietnamese nationalities culture and arts university. Such a university that we can call our own would be one of the conditions favorable for attracting even more of our children belonging to the 53 minority nationalities in a unified Vietnam; they can come here both to learn and to practice culture, literature, and the arts. With such a university that we can call our own, which would be built in accordance with statutes appropriate to the various characteristics of the nationalities with regard to student recruitment and teacher selection, with regard to ways of teaching as well as with regard to the organization of life and board there, and with regard to training and cultural interaction, the young generations among the various nationalities in our country will progress step by step to become the true masters of their cultural lives.

Culture is both the goal of our life and the tool of education.

To renovate our thinking in our cultural policy, we think, means to pay attention to beautiful cultural and artistic values, to reinforce the real values of man, and to know how to use culture and the arts as tools for educating the laboring people in noble thoughts and feelings. Our regime cannot accept the idea of using cultural and artistic activities as mere exchange commodities, as a sort of business involving the "brainchild" of artists.

In concretizing our cultural and artistic policy, we have the guidance of the Political Report: "Together with thought renovation, our ideological work must be aimed at reinforcing the new quality and the new ethics, at raising our patriotism and love of socialism, our proletarian internationalism, and our socialist internationalism, and at motivating the revolutionary will of the masses. The political quality of each person must find expression in his or

her firm standpoint in the struggle between the two ways, between us and the enemy, and between the healthy and the depraved. It must find expression also in one's persistence, one's proactive bend, one's creativity and high sense of responsibility, one's high effectiveness, and one's faith in people's power and in the party's leadership in the struggle to fulfill one's tasks. Scepticism, doubts, and loss of faith and direction, which are contrary to the good nature of the vanguard revolutionary fighter, must be overcome."

To carry out the resolution of the Sixth Party Congress, a series of concrete policies regarding culture and the arts must be studied, drafted, and promulgated.

Among those urgent policies one must figure the readjustment in the author's emoluments, the readjustment of pricing policies regarding the various kinds of cultural and artistic products, and the readjustment of policies regarding the activities of the mobile information teams, of the mobile film showing teams, and of the non-specialized artistic team in the mountain and border regions.

In his address, "The Building of Socialism and Culture Among the Minority Nationalities," Comrade Pham Van Dong said in part: "We do not speak about a national science and technology...but when we speak about culture there is bound to be the question of a national culture; the same is true of literature and the arts. The various nationalities in our country have beautiful and precious traditions and their potential for development is very rich. From our customs and habits to our material and spiritual lives, from our meals and shelter, clothing, and adornments to our singing and dances, our music, our language, our scripts, and our traditions, all these form the basis of our national culture and art. In this foundation there are many things that are fine and beautiful and precious. Our party and our government have been aware of this great capital for a long time. That is why we have endeavored to preserve, to investigate, and to promote it, and we have striven to do these in such a way so as not to let this capital disappear. From this capital we will create newer achievements so as to enrich the common culture of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and make it fresher, brighter, and more beautiful. This is an absolutely correct policy of our party."

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